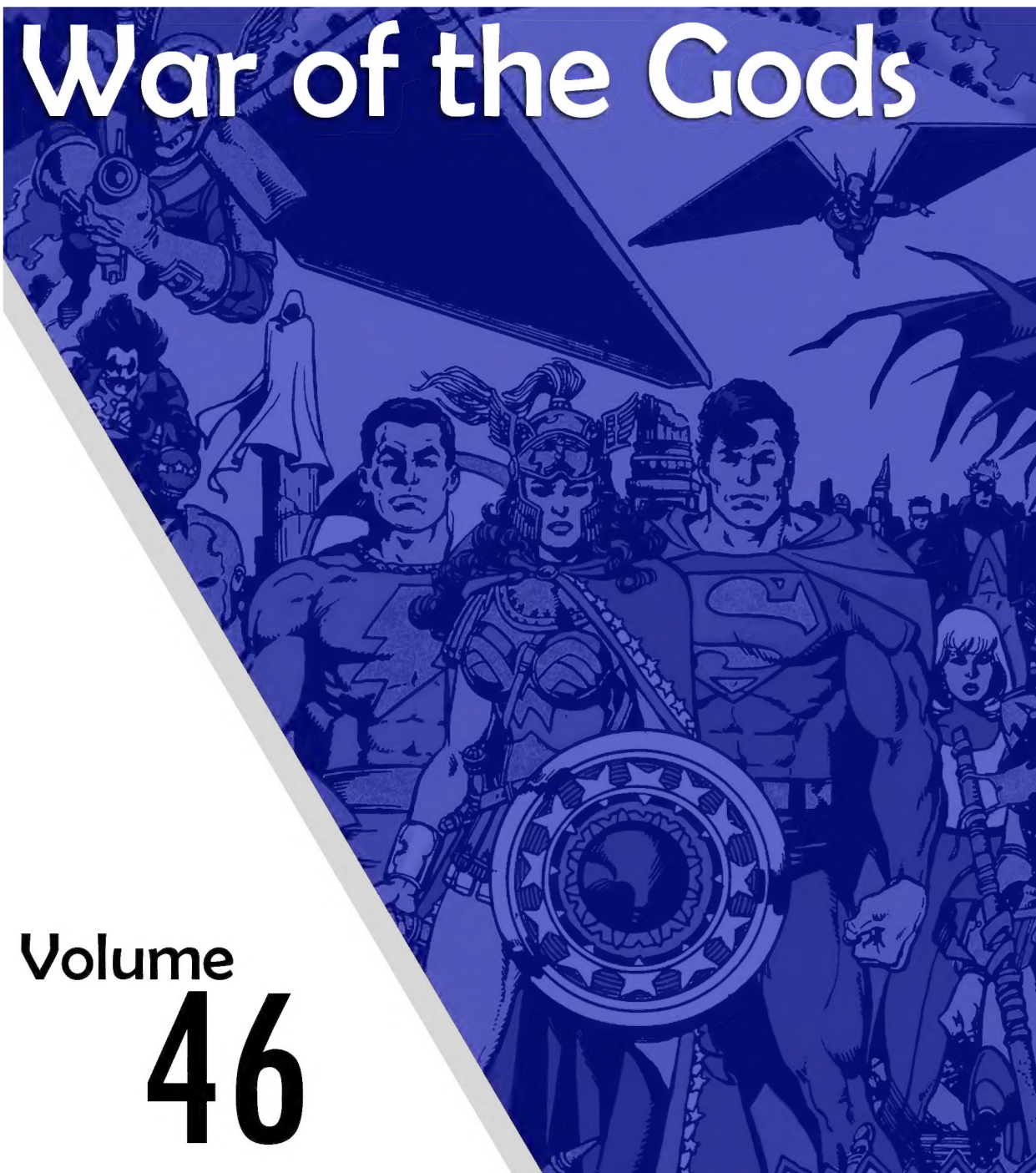
SUPERMAN

Post-CRISIS ON INFINITE EARTHS

War of the Gods



Volume 46

SUPERMAN Post-CRISIS War of the Gods 46

THE REALM OF FATE...

WHERE THE INEVITABLE IS A THREAD SPUN A THROUGH SPINDLE. WHERE THE CEASELESS WEAVING OF DESTINY INTO HISTORY IS BUT A MUNDANE TOIL OF THE TAILOR.

FOR CENTURIES THESE FATES HAVE BEEN KNOWN AS ANANKE, CLOTHO, LACHESIS, AND ATROPOS; BEFORE THAT THEY ANSWERED TO NO APPELLATION.

THEY MERELY WERE. THEY ARE. OR SO THEY BELIEVED...

ATTEND, SISTERS.

SHE APPROACHES.

WHAT!? NO! HOW CAME I TO THIS CONFOUNDING PLACE!?

BY MY BRETHREN, I MUST BE--

--DREAMING AGAIN. NO, HARMONIA. NOT THIS TIME.

IT IS FATE THAT HAS *SUMMONED* YOU.

SUMMONED ME? IMPOSSIBLE! YOU FATES HAVE NEVER--

--CALLED ANYONE TO AUDIENCE BEFORE. TRUE, DAUGHTER OF ARES--UNTIL NOW.

NEVER 'TIL NOW HAS THERE EVER BEEN *CAUSE*.

BEHOLD THIS TAPESTRY OF TIME. DO YOU RECOGNIZE IT?

YES... IT IS ONE SHOWN ME UPON *OUR* LAST MEETING. 'TIS *LARGER* THAN I REMEMBER IT.

AYE, GODDESS, AND IT IS THE *ADDED* FABRIC THAT IMPERILS THE PRECARIOUS PERCH UPON WHICH FATE STANDS--

WAR OF THE GODS 1. September, 1991. Published monthly by DC Comics Inc., 1325 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10019. Copyright © 1991 DC Comics Inc. All Rights Reserved. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. All characters featured in this issue and distinctive likenesses thereof are trademarks of DC Comics Inc. Printed in U.S.A.
DC Comics Inc A Warner Bros. Inc. Company

G-6742

"--AND MAY VERY WELL SPELL THE END OF EVERYTHING!"

"<HE'S BACK!>"

"L" TRANSLATED FROM GREEK.

"<<WHAT DID YOU SAY?>>"

"<<" TRANSLATED FROM AN UNKNOWN MIDDLE EASTERN LANGUAGE.

"<CAN'T YOU HEAR THEM--THE CREATURES OF THE DARK? CAN'T YOU FEEL THEM BRISTLING WITH EXCITEMENT?>"

"<<PHTHIA, I CAN'T UNDERSTAND A WORD YOU'RE SAYING.'">>

"<MIKOS HAS RETURNED.!">

"< I MUST INFORM THE MISTRESS.>"

<< DID YOU SAY--MIKOS"?>.

<< FINALLY, WE'LL GET SOME ANSWERS!>>

< MISTRESS, MIKOS-->

< I KNOW, GUILLERMO, I KNOW. THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS A SURPRISE VISITOR HERE.>

<< WHAT IS IT, SORCERESS? HE SAID MIKOS, DIDN'T HE? HE HAS RETURNED?>>

<< SPEAK, DOG! HAS THAT MAN-HAWK RETURNED WITH NEWS OF THE GOBLET? *ANSWER ME!*>>

<< DAMN YOU, WITCH! YOU COULD HAVE CAST SOME *SPELL* SO THAT WE AND YOUR SERVANTS MIGHT *COMMUNICATE*.>>

<AH NOW, MY DEAR AMAYA-- THEN THERE WOULD BE NO SECRETS BETWEEN US, WOULD THERE?>

< MISTRESS, IS EVERYTHING ALL RIGHT? I HEARD THIS HARRIDAN-->

< NEVER MIND HER, MIKOS. HOW WENT YOUR MISSION?>

< NOT WELL. BUT, I SWEAR, IT SHOULD BE ONLY A MATTER OF TIME-->

<< WHAT'S HE SAYING? I DON'T LIKE HIS TONE. WHAT ABOUT THE THEMYSCIRAN GOBLET!?>>

< I'M AFRAID, DEAR AMAYA, THAT WE MAY HAVE HIT A LITTLE SNAG THERE.>

< BE PATIENT THOUGH. MY NIGHT-CHILDREN ARE EVERYWHERE. IN TIME THEY-->

<< TIME! YOU'VE HAD MORE TIME THAN YOU NEEDED. WE MADE A BARGAIN! NO ONE CHEATS AN AMAZON!>>

<< SUCH AN INSULT CAN BE ANSWERED ONLY IN *BLOOD*!>>

< NOW, IS THAT ANY WAY FOR A GUEST TO ADDRESS HER HOSTESS? I'M DEEPLY INSULTED.>

< AND YOU ARE NOT THE ONLY ONE WHO KNOWS HOW TO DEAL WITH INSULTS.>

AAAAAH

IIEEE!!

<< AMAYA! WHAT'S HAPPENED!? BY PHTHIA, WE KNEW YOU COULDN'T BE TRUSTED!>>

< STAY BACK! NO ONE APPROACHES THE MISTRESS EXCEPT THROUGH--->

< GUILLERMO! MIKOS! PUT DOWN YOUR WEAPONS!

< THESE WOMEN AREN'T STUPID. THEY KNOW HOW USELESS SUCH PUNY WEAPONS ARE AGAINST ME.>

< GO AHEAD, DISHONORED AMAZONS. SHOOT. JOIN YOUR SISTER AMAYA IN THE VALLEY OF THE DEAD, IF THAT IS YOUR AMBITION.>

< YOU'RE RIGHT-- I AM NOT TO BE TRUSTED. BUT IF YOUR KIND IS TO SURVIVE YOU HAVE NO OTHER CHOICE.>

THE FATE OF *ALL* MORTALS-- INDEED, OF THE *GODS THEMSELVES*-- IS IN MY HANDS.

< FOR I AM BREWING A *HOLY WAR*, SISTERS, AND TO FEAST UPON ITS SPOILS YOU MUST FIRST BEND--?

<-- TO THE POWER OF *CIRCE*!>

HELLFIRE'S WEB

Story and Layouts by GEORGE PÉREZ

Finished Art by CYNTHIA MARTIN

Lettering by ALBERT DE GUZMAN

Colored by GENE D'ANGELO

Edited by KAREN BERGER and TOM PEYER

With Special Thanks To: ROMEO TANGHAL

< NOW, ATTEND TO YOUR FOOLISH SISTER, WHILE I SEE TO MORE IMPORTANT MATTERS. >

MADAME CIRCE-- IS EVERYTHING ALL RIGHT? I HEARD A SCREAM--

A MINOR DISAGREEMENT, DR. KASLAK. I'M AFRAID OUR LATE FRIEND AMAYA LACKED THE PATIENCE SO ESSENTIAL TO MATTERS OF SORCERY.

IS EVERYTHING FINALLY READY?

YES, I TOLD YOU I WOULD PROVIDE THE NECESSARY INFORMATION YOUR AMAZONS WOULD REQUIRE TO CONFISCATE THE APPROPRIATE RELICS.

AS A MEMBER OF THE EDWARDS MUSEUM IN CHICAGO, I'M PRIVY TO ALL SUCH INFORMATION. YOU DON'T NEED ANYONE ELSE.

DULY NOTED AND APPRECIATED, DOCTOR.

IT'S JUST THAT I ENJOY HAVING *MANY* GUESTS AT MY PARTIES.

"DON'T WORRY, KONRAD, NOTHING CAN STOP THE INEVITABLE. PARTICULARLY NOT WHILE I AM STILL BLESSED WITH SO MANY WILLING ACCOMPLICES--

"--WHOSE APPETITES ARE ALMOST AS VORACIOUS AS MY OWN.

"WHETHER THEY BE MAN, BEAST--

"--OR GOD."

BY FATHER'S RAGE, HOW I HATE THE *COLD!*

WHY DID THAT BLASTED ALIEN HAVE TO PICK THIS CORNER OF GAEA'S BUTTOCKS TO SEEK SOLITUDE?

WELL, IT WILL BE HIS *UNDOING.*

CIRCE WAS RIGHT. I CAN FEEL THE POWER SKITTERING THROUGH THE ICE.

TRACES--NERVOUS WHISPERS IN THE WIND.

HAH! BUT IT IS FROM SUCH WHISPERS THAT *TRUE FEAR* IS BORN.

HURRY, FAVORED OF HECATE! LET'S GET ON WITH IT! FOR *PHOBOS,* GOD OF PANIC, AWAITS TO TAKE HIS PLACE AT THE BANQUET OF POWER!

SHADOWS... HOW STRONG THEY BE...

THE DREAD TIME IS NIGH.

BRRRR... MUST'VE LEFT A WINDOW OPEN. IT'S FREEZING!

BILL... BILL... BILL... SECOND NOTICE... BILL.

MAN, HOW I HATE THE END OF THE MONTH!

RON... RAYMOND...

HUH? WHO'S THAT? WHERE--?

WHOA-- TAKE IT EASY, RONNY. YOU'VE BEEN EDGY ALL DAY. YOU JUST GOTTA--

HEED ME...

HEY! I WASN'T IMAGINING IT THAT TIME. I DEFINITELY HEARD A VOICE.

YES... RON RAYMOND... A VOICE... CALLING UPON THAT PART OF YOU THAT IS EVER LINKED-- LIKE OBATALA'S GOLDEN CHAIN --WITH HIM WHO STOOD AGAINST THE ORISHA-NLA...

...FOR THE SAKE OF *IFE*! THUS IMPERILED, THE FURY OF THE *FIRE* AND THE *STORM* MUST BE INVOKED--

FIRESTORM!? GOOD GOD-- WHO ARE YOU? WHY SHOULD I BELIEVE--?

BECAUSE... RON... I BELIEVE IT.

YOU!?

YES, RON-- I.

A GREAT THREAT TO CREATION IS FORMING AND I MUST COMBAT IT.

BUT, I CANNOT PASS OVER WITHOUT YOUR HELP.

I KNOW HOW GREAT A SACRIFICE WE ASK, RON-- HOW PEACEFUL YOUR LIFE HAS BEEN SINCE WE PARTED--

IT IS *THAT* LIFE, AND *ALL* LIFE, THAT IS THREATENED NOW...

PLEASE, RONALD RAYMOND... FOR THE SAKE OF MARU... WE IMPLORE YOU.

PLEASE...

SOMEWHERE BETWEEN HELL AND LIMBO FLOATS THE FETID, MONSTROUS REALM NAMED FOR HIM WHOSE THIRST FOR WAR AND DESTRUCTION IS UNQUENCHABLE.

WHERE ITS NAMESAKE WAS TRIED BY THE GODS FOR THE MURDER OF POSEIDON'S SON AND FOUND GUILTY.

THIS IS AREOPAGUS -- THE HILL OF ARES.

ARES, SON OF ZEUS AND HERA. ARES, WHOM SOME CALL MAD, FOR WAR IS MAD. LORD ARES, WHOSE DOMINION HERE IS UNDISPUTED.

ARES -- FATHER OF PHOBOS, OF DEIMOS, NOW DEAD, OF ERIS, THEIR SISTER...

...AND OF HARMONIA...

FATHER...

WHAT -- YOU!? WHAT IN PERDITION ARE YOU DOING HERE?

DON'T TOY WITH ME!

AND DON'T THINK I DON'T RECOGNIZE THAT TIMBRE IN YOUR VOICE. YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH CIRCE'S INSANE PLAN, DON'T YOU?

YOU DARE!!

CAREFUL, SISTER. FATHER WOULDN'T LIKE YOU TALKING TO HIS FAVORITE DAUGHTER SO.

JUST AS I DO NOT THINK FATHER WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR LOUNGING UPON HIS THRONE.

I HAVE NO TIME TO SQUABBLE WITH YOU, ERIS. WHERE IS FATHER? I MUST SPEAK WITH HIM. IT IS *FATE* HERSELF WHO HAS SENT ME.

FATE? DO YOU EXPECT ME TO BELIEVE THAT PASSIONLESS TOMBSTONE ACTUALLY DEIGNED TO IMPART HER KNOWLEDGE TO YOU?

YOU MUST BE UNBALANCED, HARMONIA. HOW UNLIKE YOU. COULD IT BE HUNGER THAT LIGHTENS YOUR SENSES?

PERHAPS... A TASTE OF ONE OF MY APPLES --?

I'LL HAVE FATHER REVERT YOU INTO A WITHERED CRONE! I'VE WARNED HIM ABOUT YOUR INFIDELITY --

YOU SPEAK OF MY INFIDELITY!?

YOU, WHO MOCK OUR FATHER'S OWN VOW OF NON-INTERFERENCE WITH *EARTH*!?

WOULD THAT I HAD TIME ENOUGH TO DEAL WITH YOU NOW, SISTER, BUT I KNOW HOW WELL FATHER CAN CLOAK HIS WHEREABOUTS.

THERE ARE OTHERS WITH WHOM I MUST CONFER. BUT MARK ME WELL, ERIS--FATHER IS NO FOOL! HE'LL SEE THE TRUE DANGER--

AND, WHEN HE LEARNS THAT *YOU* HAD A HAND IN IT--

--BY OLYMPUS, HOW I WOULD PITY BEING YOU!

PERHAPS, MY NAIVE SISTER, BUT HE SHAN'T BE HEARING IT FROM *YOUR* LIPS.

AND WHEN THE TRUTH IS FINALLY REVEALED TO OUR WRETCHED FATHER, IT WILL BE TOO LATE.

"AND FOREVERMORE SHALL THE THRONE OF AREOPAGUS TRULY BE MINE."

THEMYSCIRA, HOME OF THE LEGENDARY AMAZONS.

FOR MILLENNIA HAS THIS ISLAND PARADISE RESTED TRANQUIL UPON ITS AQUAMARINE BED--SAFEGUARDED FROM THE WOES OF PATRIARCH'S WORLD, WHOSE BONDAGE THE AMAZONS ESCAPED CENTURIES AGO.

THEMYSCIRA--SOLITARY, SECURE, AND SERENE.

HOW SO MUCH CAN CHANGE IN SO LITTLE TIME.

I TELL YOU, SISTERS, WE ARE WASTING TIME. THIS IS *WAR!*

WE MUST NOT LET HISTORY BE REPEATED. WE MUST ACT *NOW!*

IPHTHIME, I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL. BUT, SISTERS, I WAS *THERE.*

PATRIARCH'S WORLD IS A *COLOSSUS!* WE WOULDN'T STAND A *CHANCE* AGAINST THEIR WEAPONRY!

WE WOULDN'T, EUBOEA--BUT THE GODS DID PROVIDE US WITH A CHAMPION WHO *WOULD.*

WELL? WHAT SAY YOU?

WE HAVE ALREADY LOST OUR QUEEN, OUR CAPTAIN, AND ONE OF OUR BEST ARTISANS.

HOW MANY MORE MUST BE SACRIFICED BEFORE YOU ACT?

"< IT WAS UPON YOUR ADVICE THAT WE OPENED OUR SHORES TO MAN-- AND SEE WHERE IT HAS GOTTEN US! >

"< SPEAK TO US, PRINCESS DIANA. YOU ARE THE FAVORED OF THE GODS, IT IS YOUR DUTY--? >"

< I KNOW MY DUTY, IPHTHIME. >

< I AM, AFTER ALL, STILL MY QUEEN MOTHER'S DAUGHTER. QUEEN HIPPOLYTE, WHOM I AM NOT SO QUICK TO CAST UPON THE RIVER STYX AS YOU ARE. >

< I KNOW HOW MUCH HELLENE MEANT TO YOU, IPHTHIME. WHEN I LEARNED OF HER DEATH IN PATRIARCH'S WORLD, I TOO WEPT, BITTERLY. >

< BUT I CAN'T BELIEVE MOTHER IS ALSO DEAD. I *DARE* NOT BELIEVE IT. >

< DIANA'S RIGHT. OUR QUEEN JUST... DISAPPEARED. >

< THAT'S WHY WE HAVE TO PLAN OUR NEXT MOVE CAREFULLY. THERE ARE MYSTICAL FORCES RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL THIS, I KNOW IT! >

< IT'S THE ONLY EXPLANATION FOR EVERYTHING GOING SO TERRIBLY WRONG SO SUDDENLY.

< YOU PUT MORE STOCK IN COSMIC INTERVENTION THAN I DO RIGHT NOW, PYTHIA. THE GODS HAVE BEEN DAMNING IN THEIR SILENCE. >

< THEY SAID OUR DESTINY IS *OURS* TO CONTROL. I SAY: LET US NOT BE DESTINED TO BE SACRIFICIAL LAMBS. >

< NO! YOU MUST NOT ABANDON THE FAITH! NOT NOW! NOT NOW! >

< MENALIPPE! >

< I'M SORRY, PRINCESS, BUT SHE COULDN'T BE DISSUADED. SHE JUST RAN OUT OF THE HEALING ROOM--

< THE GODS HAVE NOT ABANDONED US! WE MUST BE READY! >

< MENALIPPE, PLEASE... YOU MUSTN'T EXERT YOURSELF, YOUR WOUNDS--

< MERELY WOUNDS OF THE FLESH, PRINCESS-- NOTHING THAT CAN SCAR THE SPIRIT OF AN ORACLE... >

< AFTER ALL THIS TIME... APOLLO HAS REOPENED THE PORTALS TO ME... THEY'RE COMING, DIANA... THEY'RE... >

< BEHOLD! >

< GREAT GAEA! >

"LORD HERMES! AND... HERACLES!"

ATTEND, O MOST DEVOTED OF WORSHIPPERS! FOR, ON THIS DAY HAVE THE EYES AND EARS OF OLYMPUS BEEN REOPENED TO YOU.

AYE--AND WOULD THAT IT WERE THE JOYOUS DECLARATION YOU HAD HOPED IT TO BE.

< WHAT DO YOU MEAN? LORD HERMES, WHY DID YOU JUST VANISH THE OTHER NIGHT? DON'T YOU REALIZE ALL THAT HAS HAPPENED--?>

< CALM YOURSELF, DIANA. THE GODS HAVE RETURNED FROM THEIR COSMIC MIGRATION. THEY WILL HELP US--YOU'LL SEE.>

YOUR GRATIFYING FAITH, DEAR ORACLE, SHALL GIRD US FOR THE CRISIS AHEAD.

PRINCESS DIANA, WE CALL UPON YOU AS THE FAVORED OF THE GODS.

IN THE NAME OF GAEA, WE SUMMON YOU TO NEW OLYMPUS.

< WHAT? NOW?! BUT, HERACLES, WHAT OF MY *MOTHER*? WHAT ABOUT ALL THE TURMOIL THAT STIRS ON PATRIARCH'S WORLD?>

< SURELY YOU DON'T EXPECT ME TO JUST LEAVE--?

WE EXPECT YOU TO HEED THE WILL OF YOUR GODS, DIANA. ALL ELSE MUST WAIT ITS TURN.

PREPARE YOURSELF, AMAZON PRINCESS, FOR A JOURNEY BEYOND MORTAL SENSES!

"COME, DIANA--!

"COME!!"

THOUGH THIS JOURNEY THROUGH CHAOS IS NOT A NEW ONE FOR DIANA OF THEMYSCIRA, THERE IS SOMETHING... STRANGER... ABOUT IT THIS TIME--

THROUGH THE COSMIC ANTEROOM OF DIN AND DARKNESS TUMBLES THE AMAZON KNOWN AS WONDER WOMAN.

LORD HERMES! HERACLES! WHERE ARE YOU? I'M LOST. I CANNOT TRAVERSE THIS TERRITORY WITHOUT--

GREAT GAEA.

BEHOLD, PRINCESS DIANA! GAZE UPON NEW OLYMPUS!

REVEL IN THE MARVEL OF REBIRTH!

AND DESPAIR AT THE HORROR OF A NEWBORN DYING!

WHAT-- I DON'T UNDER--

--CAN'T--

OLYMPUS ENFEEBLED! OLYMPUS LEECHED!!

DEAR GODS... SO DIZZY...

PARASITES-- FEASTING ON OLYMPUS' SOUL!

THE HAUNTING! CRIES OF OUR ANCESTORS! ECHOES FROM THE STARS!

THE SPECTRE IN GREEN! WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

ONLY HOPE! YOU! THE SECRET RESTS WITH YOU!

WHAT IS THE ANSWER?

WHAT, DIANA!?

STOP IT!!

WHAT!?

OUR APOLOGIES, PRINCESS, IN OUR ANXIETY WE NEGLECTED TO CONSIDER THE LIMITS OF HUMAN PERCEPTION.

EVEN AS WE SPEAK, THE MYSTIC VENEER IS CONVERTING TO LESS SENSITIVE PERSPECTIVES.

JUST BE PATIENT--IT IS NO SMALL MATTER TO REIN IN GODHOOD.

THERE, DIANA, IS THIS MORE ACCESSIBLE TO YOU?

YES, LADY ARTEMIS, THANK YOU.

BUT, FORGIVE MY IMPUDENCE-- WHY HAS IT TAKEN SO LONG FOR YOU TO RESPOND TO OUR PRAYERS?

HUSH, CHILD-- OUR SILENCE WAS NOT OF OUR CHOOSING. IT TOOK ALL OUR COMBINED MIGHT JUST TO GET YOU HERE--TO EXPLAIN THAT.

LADY ATHENA, I DON'T UNDERSTAND...

WAIT... YOU SAID OLYMPUS WAS IN DANGER OF SOME KIND ...SOMETHING ABOUT... A HAUNTING?...AND THAT I HAVE THE ANSWER?

YOU FIND NEW OLYMPUS TO BE MIND-BOGGLING, JUST AS WE PROMISED IT WOULD BE. AS WE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE.

BUT SOMETHING WENT WRONG.

THERE IS A STRANGE MALIGNANCY THAT COURSES THROUGH THE VEINS OF NEW OLYMPUS. SOME MALADY OF THE SOUL EVEN *WE* CANNOT DETERMINE

...THAT CORRUPTS OUR HOME INTO A LIVING, DECAYING *PRISON*.

AYE, ONE THAT SHUTS OUT ALL COMMUNICATION FROM WITHOUT AND WITHIN.

LORD ZEUS OFFERED ONE HOPE: TO GET TO HERMES, OUR MESSENGER WHO STILL WALKED THE EARTH,

FOR THAT, HE HAD TO EXPEND GREAT POWER-- DESPITE THE OMENS.

DESPITE THE WARNINGS FROM THE STARS.

AND DESPITE THE WAILS OF THE SPECTRAL OMEN WHOSE PRESENCE RATTLES THE BONES OF HADES HIMSELF.

HERA, DO NOT STAND SO CLOSELY TO THAT EMERALD WRAITH. WE HAVE NO WAY.--

SILENCE, APOLLO! THERE IS NO WAY I INTEND TO ALLOW THIS DEMON TO GET ANY CLOSER TO MY AILING HUSBAND.

"AS ZEUS BROUGHT HERMES FORTH, I COULD SEE THE DEMON'S BLACK ORBS BECKON. AND DID THOSE PORTALS LOOM EVER MORE DARKLY AS MY HUSBAND FELL INTO HIS STUPOR.

"WERE THIS CREATURE DREAD TARTARUS PERSONIFIED, HE SHALL APPROACH NO FURTHER."

YOU!?

EH? THEN, DIANA, YOU DO KNOW THIS ENTITY? IT IS AS WE SURMISED.

ONLY FROM MY DREAMS, LORD APOLLO.

"A COSMIC DISCARD, HE CALLED HIMSELF... DOOMED TO STAND ON THE PERIPHERY OF DISASTER... AN IMPOTENT HARBINGER OF INESCAPABLE OBLIVION...

"...A PARIAH."

AAARRRHHH

GREAT GAEA! WHAT WAS THAT!?

IT IS THE OTHER REASON FOR WHICH YOU WERE CALLED.

SHE APPEARED JUST AFTER HERMES' ARRIVAL, HER BODY ENCASED IN THAT TORMENTING COSMOS THAT ALL BUT MESMERIZED US.

EVEN WE GODS CANNOT BREACH THAT BLISTERING NIMBUS THAT SURROUNDS HER.

YOU RECOGNIZE HER AS WELL, DO YOU NOT, DIANA?

"DONNA TROY."

YES. DEAR GODS...

DONNA...

DAMN YOU, FATE.

YOU COULD HAVE AT LEAST EXPLAINED TO ME *WHY* I HAD TO APPROACH OLYMPUS VIA *THIS* ROUTE.

THE *RIVER STYX* WOULD CERTAINLY NOT HAVE BEEN MY PASSAGE OF PREFERENCE.

STILL, I DID AGREE TO ABIDE BY YOUR RULES, AMBIGUOUS AS THEY ARE...

CHARON, ARE YOU CERTAIN THIS IS THE CORRECT WAY? I REALIZE THAT WITH OLYMPUS REBUILT, SOME THINGS WOULD SEEM DIFFERENT, YET--

OH... THERE IT IS. HADES' GATEWAY, WHICH NOW JOINS IT TO NEW OLYMPUS.

I'M SORRY, FERRYMAN, I SHOULD NEVER HAVE DOUBTED--

HAIL TO YOU, HARMONIA... YOU HAVE BEEN EXPECTED.

HAVE I, HADES? I WAS LED TO BELIEVE--

-- THAT OLYMPUS WAS SHUT OFF FROM SUCH KNOWLEDGE?

TRUE, TRUE. AND THAT IS HOW IT SHALL REMAIN.

I APOLOGIZE FOR YOUR TROUBLES, DAUGHTER OF ARES, BUT, FOR YOU, THIS JOURNEY IS OVER.

I COMMEND YOU TO MY BOSOM.

BY FATHER'S RAGE! YOU ARE *NOT* HADES!

CHARON! QUICKLY! WE MUST HIE--

CHARON!?!

STAY BY THE GATEWAY, FERRYMAN. IF ANY OTHER BE SO FOOLHARDY AS TO VENTURE WHERE NO MORTAL SHOULD DARE, THEN METE OUT JUST PUNISHMENT WITHOUT HESITATION.

COME, BROTHERS AND SISTERS--DESTINY AWAITS.

MYMYMYMY-MY. WHAT HAVE WE HERE, TEEKL.

SOME NASTY BUSINESS GOING ON IN THIS CORNER OF HELL.

I'M NOT SURE HOW I MISSED THIS PLACE BEFORE, AND *UNCLE JASON* CERTAINLY NEVER MENTIONED IT.

BUT I HAVE A FEELING THAT THIS PLACE HAS DEFINITE *POSSIBILITIES*...

--ESPECIALLY AFTER FINDING THE BODY OF *THAT* GAUZE-WRAPPED CREATURE.

SURE LOOKS A LOT LIKE THE ONE ON THE RAFT, DOESN'T HE, TEEKL? A *TWIN*, PERHAPS?

WELL, NO NEED TO RUSH IN AS YET. COME, TEEKL.

IF THERE IS A CHANCE FOR MISCHIEF, IT WOULD BEHOOVE *KLARION THE WITCH BOY* TO SET UP THE GAME BOARD.

SAN FRANCISCO.

"IT ALL LOOKS SO NORMAL OUT THERE."

THEN, WHY DO I FEEL THAT UNMISTAKEABLE SENSE OF FOREBODING?

BECAUSE YOU'RE A *MAGICIAN*, ZATANNA. REMEMBER WHAT FATHER SAID--"IT COMES WITH THE JOB."

MAYBE, BUT I CAN'T JUST GO CALLING UP THE JUSTICE LEAGUE WITHOUT SOMETHING MORE THAN A BAD FEELING TO GO ON.

GARDNER WOULD PROBABLY ATTRIBUTE THAT TO MY COOKING.

THERE IS... *SOMETHING* OUT THERE... LOOMING OVER US, READY TO POUNCE, AND I'VE GOT TO OPEN ALL MY SENSES TO IT.

WHATEVER IT IS, ZATANNA, YOU'VE GOT TO BE READY.

WHILE SOMEWHERE OVER COLORADO...

WHAT THE--!?

MY POWER'S GOING CRAZY. LIKE A SUDDEN SURGE--CAN'T MANEUVER--

FALLING... GOT TO GET CONTROL...

I'M *STARMAN*, BLAST IT! I'VE GOT TO KEEP--

--CONTROL!!

WHEW--THAT WAS *TOO* CLOSE. MAYBE I'D BETTER HEAD BACK TO S.T.A.R. LABS FOR A CHECK-UP.

MAN, DID THAT FEEL WEIRD...

"<< BY PHTHIA, LOOK AT THE SKIES OVER THE AMAZON! THE WITCH HAS BEGUN THE RITUAL! >>"

<< BUT, CIRCE SAID THAT WE WOULD NOT BEGIN WITHOUT THE GOBLET. SHE'S LIED TO US -- AGAIN! >>

<< YOU SMIRKING HELLSPAWN! YOU KNEW ABOUT THIS BETRAYAL, DIDN'T YOU!? >>

<< EASY, BASHIRA, REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED TO AMAYA. THE WITCH IS RIGHT, WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO TRUST HER NOW. >>

<< YES... YOU'RE RIGHT, LYANA... THOUGH I'D SOONER PROP HER HEAD UPON MY LANCE. >>

<< ON TOP OF HIS. >>

< O HECATE, GODDESS OF THE MOON, WHOSE OMNIPOTENT SOUL DWELLS WITHIN MY BREAST, I CALL TO YOU TO PASS DOWN YOUR JUDGMENT! >

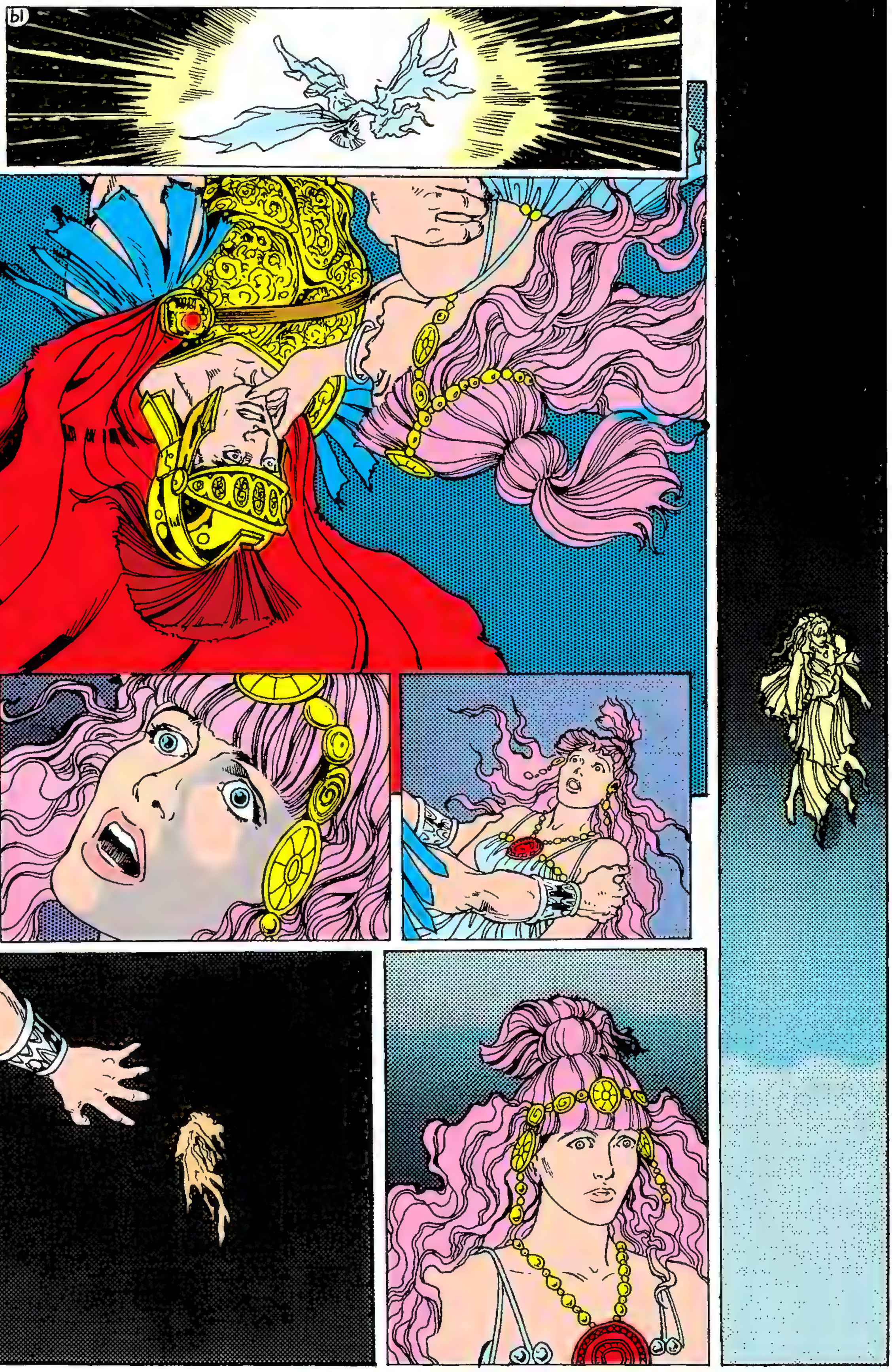
< TONIGHT SHALL THE WEAVING OF YOUR HELLFIRE'S WEB ENSNARE ALL WHO HAVE OFFENDED AND VILIFIED YOU.

< LET YOUR POWER COURSE THROUGH THESE TOKENS OF PANTHEONS BRED FROM THE BLOODLUST OF OLYMPUS. LET THESE RELICS PROVIDE SUCKLE FOR THE EGOS UPON WHICH ALL GODHOOD THRIVES. >

< AS IT WAS IN YOUR BEGINNING, SO LET IT BE AGAIN. GODS, ATTEND!! ARISE, O IMMORTALS, AND RECLAIM THY BIRTHRIGHT! >

MY GOD... SHE'S ACTUALLY DOING IT -- JUST AS SHE CLAIMED SHE COULD. THIS IS INCREDIBLE! CIRCE DOES HAVE THE POWER TO CONJURE GODS --

-- AND, UNBEKNOWNST TO HER, TO PROVIDE ME WITH POWERS BEYOND MEASURE.


b1

AMONG THE GODS, THERE IS A RIDDLE THAT HAS PLAGUED THEM SINCE THEIR DAWN: WHERE GO THE GODS WHEN GODS DIE?

IT IS A QUESTION WHICH HARMONIA ASKS NOW.

BUT, FORTUNATELY IT IS STILL A RIDDLE UNANSWERED.

ZOUNDS-- I'M BACK UPON THE SHORES OF THE STYX. BUT HOW--?

PLEASE... NO NEED FOR THANKS...

YOU! THEN YOU WEREN'T JUST ANOTHER DENIZEN OF MY DEMENTIA?

DEAR LADY, I'M AS REAL AS YOU ARE, AND I'M WILLING TO BET THAT NEITHER OF US WAS FLOATING BENEATH THOSE DARK WATERS OF OUR OWN VOLITION.

SON OF VULCAN.

WHO ARE YOU?

MOST RECENTLY, I HAVE BEEN KNOWN AS *HALCIBER FILIUS*--

I WAS BORN JOHN MANN. BUT THAT WAS A LIFETIME AGO.

VULCAN? YOU MEAN *HEPHAESTUS*, KEEPER OF THE FORGE?

NO, LADY HARMONIA, I MEAN *VULCAN*. DIFFERENT PERSON ENTIRELY. IF WE ARE TO WORK SUCCESSFULLY TOGETHER, IT'S IMPERATIVE THAT WE MAKE THOSE DISTINCTIONS VERY CLEAR.

WORK TOGETHER? THEN YOU WERE SENT BY FATE?

IN A MATTER OF SPEAKING. YOU SEE, I KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING HERE, AND I TRIED TO STOP IT.

MY LACK OF SUCCESS CAN BE TRACED UPON MY SCARS.

MY GODS DESIRED A HUMAN CHAMPION. WHEN I PROVED... UNCOOPERATIVE, THEY SELECTED ANOTHER.

AND THAT, DEAR HARMONIA, IS ONE REASON WE ARE *BOTH* HERE.

ATTENTION, OLYMPIANS! THY DAY OF RECKONING IS HIGH!

IT IS TIME THAT OLYMPUS WELCOME HER TRUE MASTERS. NOW SHALL THE REIGN OF *PRETENSE* BE OVERTHROWN.

MOTHER... HUSBAND... I AM SO SORRY. I DID NOT MEAN TO SHOW THEM THE WAY...

OH, BUT MY LORD HADES... HE SEEMED SO MUCH LIKE YOU...

PERSEPHONE! DEAR DAUGHTER, WHAT HAVE THEY--?

HOLD, DEMETER. NO MANNER OF THREAT WOULD HAVE PROMPTED PERSEPHONE TO BETRAY US...

...PARTICULARLY NOT WHEN SHE IS BETROTHED TO THE GOD OF DEATH HIMSELF. THERE IS SOME SORT OF TRICKERY AFOOT.

TRICKERY, HADES? OR RATHER, LIKE *MY* BELOVED PERSIPONE WHOSE EYES SHE BEARS, YON PERSEPHONE COULD SEE THAT *LORD PLUTO* IS DEATH'S *TRUE* GOD.

JUST AS I, *LADY CERES*, BE THE ONE AND ONLY GODDESS OF THE HARVEST.

LET US NOT WASTE TIME ON INDIVIDUAL INTRODUCTIONS. LET THIS BOLT CUT FROM LORD VULCAN'S FORGE BLAST AWAY THESE ROBES--

--AND BARE THE TRUE GRANDEUR OF OLYMPIAN GLORY!

OLYMPUS, YOUR *LEGITIMATE* CHILDREN HAVE RETURNED!

I, *LORD JUPITER*, SIRE OF ALL THE HEAVENS, MASTER OF THE GODS, DO RECLAIM OUR LEGACY!

YOU DARE SPOUT SUCH BLASPHEMY ON SACRED TERRAIN! YOU DARE BRANDISH WEAPONS AGAINST THOSE WHOSE BLOOD PUMPS THROUGH OLYMPUS HERSELF!

ARROGANT FOOLS! OFT BEFORE HAVE WE DEALT WITH PRETENDERS, AND *STILL* DO WE RULE!

IF IT BE *WAR* YOU DESIRE, THEN IN THE NAME OF *ALL* OLYMPUS, I, *POSEIDON*, LORD OF THE LIVING SEAS, *SWEAR* THAT IT SHALL BE A *SHORT* ONE!

AND WHERE GO MY GODS, SO GOES THE PRINCESS OF THEMYSCIRA.

PLEASE, LORD JUPITER... THERE IS STILL TIME TO RECONSIDER--

AH! THE FABLED *WONDER WOMAN!* THE AMAZON UPSTART SOME DARE CLAIM IS MIGHTIER THAN I!

COME DOWN HERE, WENCH, AND *HERCULES* SHALL TEACH YOU THE MEANING OF REAL POWER!

HOLD NOW, MY SON. REMEMBER THE PLAN...

THEY HAVE THEIR HUMAN CHAMPION...

...AND WE HAVE OURS.

AMAZON, I PRESENT TO YOU YOUR DOWNFALL.

WHERE ARE YOUR MANNERS, BOY? SAY HELLO TO THE PRINCESS.

"COME, BILLY BATSON... GREET YOUR BEAUTEOUS ADVERSARY--

"--IN YOUR OWN WORDS."

...SHAZAM.

THE CRACKLING STORMS SURROUNDING NEW OLYMPUS CONVERGE, AND SHARDS OF LIGHTNING, LIKE LEAVES SUCKED IN BY A WHIRLWIND, FUNNEL TOWARD WHERE ONCE STOOD A YOUNG BOY--

SHAZAM?

--BUT WHERE NOW STANDS, BATHED IN A CORONA OF BRISTLING ENERGY, THE ONE AND ONLY CAPTAIN MARVEL!

BY MY CROWN, WHAT'S HAPPENED?

LORD ZEUS! THANK THE FATES, WE THOUGHT--

YOU! YOU WERE HOVERING OVER ME IN THE DREAMSCAPE--TRYING TO WARN ME ABOUT SOMETHING--

WAIT!? DON'T VANISH NOW! I COMMAND YOU TO STAY!

DAMN YOU--I--

LORD ZEUS--THE SKIES ABOUT OLYMPUS--

"THEY'VE GONE INSANE! AND IT'S ALL CENTERED ON THAT MORTAL IN RED!

"DEAR ZEUS, HE'LL TEAR OLYMPUS APART!"

AHA.! SO, PRETENDER, YOU HAVE DECIDED TO COME OUT OF HIDING AFTER ALL.

AND I FEARED THE SORCERESS WOULD BE RIGHT-- THAT THIS TAKEOVER WOULD BE TOO EASY.

IMPUDENT MONGREL! YOU SHALL SUFFER TORTURES LIKE NO OTHER!

AS I SMOTE MY OWN FATHER CRONUS TO ATTAIN THIS KINGDOM, SO SHALL I DESTROY YOU AND YOUR CABAL OF CHARLATANS!

YOU WANT A WAR! BY MY BRETHREN, YOU SHALL HAVE ONE!

MY LORD-- NO! YOU CANNOT DO THIS! DID YOU NOT HEAR WHAT LORD JUPITER SAID?

THE SOR--

DIANA DOESN'T FINISH HER WARNING. SUDDENLY, ALL THAT FILLS HER MIND IS PAIN.

BURYING HER SENSES IN A ROAR OF THUNDER.

LIKE LIGHTNING BOLTS STABBING AT HER BRAIN, FLASH-BURNING EVERY MUSCLE OF HER BODY.

< NOW, HECATE! NOW!>

< YOUR WOMB IS FULL AND RIPE. IT IS THE BIRTHING TIME!>

< TIME TO SEVER THE CORDS. TIME FOR HATE'S LABOR TO BEAR ITS BITTER FRUIT. >

< NOW IS THE TIME OF ARMAGEDDON AND RESURRECTION.!>

LNA'74

"< BY THE POWER INVESTED YOU BY HECATE MOST HIGH-- I BID YOU GO!>

"< AND SET FORTH UPON CREATION-- A NEW GENESIS!>"

HECATE'S FIRE SPREADS OUT OVER THE STEAMY SKIES OVER THE SOUTH AMERICAN AMAZON JUNGLE.

STREAMS OF DEISTIC ENERGY STRETCH OUT FURTHER, EVER FURTHER, THEIR PATHS WIDENING, CROSSING--

A THROBBING ZIG-ZAG OF UNBRIDLED POWER, ENCIRCLING THE EARTH IN A LATTICEWORK HARNESS THAT DRAWS TIGHTER AGAINST THE PLANET'S BOSOM--

--CAUSING GAEA TO GASP AND STRAIN.

--FORCING NATURE TO CRY OUT IN AGONY--

--DISRUPTING THE FABRIC OF REALITY ITSELF.

WHAT THE HELL IS ALL THAT? CONTRAILS OF ENERGY... FEEL SO STRANGE.

THEY'RE TAPPING INTO ME...

CAN'T LET THAT HAPPEN---

I CAN'T!

OVER EGYPT, REPORTS OF BLAZING SERPENTS GNAWING AT THE FIRMAMENT SEND THE POPULACE INTO PANIC...

FIREBALLS PLUMMET INTO MAJOR AMERICAN CITIES, BRINGING THE NATIONAL GUARD TO A STATE OF RED ALERT.

ALTHOUGH CAPTAIN ATOM MANAGES TO ESCAPE THE IMMEDIATE DANGER OF THE HELLFIRE WEB...

THE REST OF THE WORLD SHALL NOT BE AS LUCKY.

IN INDIA, THE TEMPLES TEEM TO OVERFLOWING WITH WORSHIPPERS FEARING THAT THE END OF THE WORLD HAS ARRIVED.

IN THE SMALL MIDDLE EUROPEAN COUNTRY OF MARKOVIA, THE BLOOD AND THUNDER OF THE RAMPAGING SKIES ARE ACCOMPANIED BY EVEN GREATER CALAMITY...

...THE DEVASTATING DESTRUCTIVE POWER OF A SUDDEN EARTHQUAKE.

AN EARTHQUAKE WHOSE EPICENTER SEEMS TO BE THE ROYAL PALACE ITSELF.

"PRINCE BRION! PRINCE BRION! WAKE UP!

"FOR GOD'S SAKE, WAKE UP!!"

WHAT!?

FORGIVE US, YOUR HIGHNESS, BUT WE HAD TO--

GOOD LORD, WHAT A NIGHTMARE.

I DREAMED THAT ALL MY GEO-FORCE POWERS JUST WENT BERSERK ...I-I COULDN'T CONTROL--

OH MY GOD...

THAT IS WHAT WE'VE BEEN TRYING TO TELL YOU, PRINCE BRION--

IT WAS NO DREAM!

AND SO IT IS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. STREAMS OF COSMIC FIRE, FOLLOWED BY NATURAL AND SUPERNATURAL DISTURBANCES.

IN OSLO, NORWAY, THE GOVERNING BODY HALT THEIR TOWN HALL MEETING TO WITNESS WHAT LOOKS LIKE A LOW-FLYING COMET...

WHICH ENDS ITS JOURNEY SOMEWHERE IN THE ICY WASTELANDS BEYOND--WHERE NO MAN HAS EVER SET FOOT...

...EXCEPT FOR AN ELECTRICAL ENGINEER NAMED ROD SCHOENDIENST.

THERE IS NO ESCAPING THE INFLUENCE OF HELLFIRE'S WEB, NO SANCTUARY FROM ITS TERRIBLE POWER.

NOT EVEN WITHIN THE OTHER-DIMENSIONAL TOWER OF DR. FATE, JUST OUTSIDE SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS.

"KENT! HELP ME! KENT!!"

INZA? WHAT'S THE MATTER? I WAS JUST NEGOTIATING WITH THE BUILDING WORKERS IN NEW YORK.

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE? ARE YOU CASTING SOME KIND OF SPELL? WHY--?

INZA!!

AMUN... THE ALL-MIND... WARNING ME... CHARGING ME... SETH... ARISING...

MUST... PREPARE...

KENT, I CAN'T STOP THEM. SPIRITS IN THE HELMET! THEY'RE CALLING TO ME! THEY'RE PULLING AT ME FROM ALL SIDES!

THEY WON'T LET ME GO!

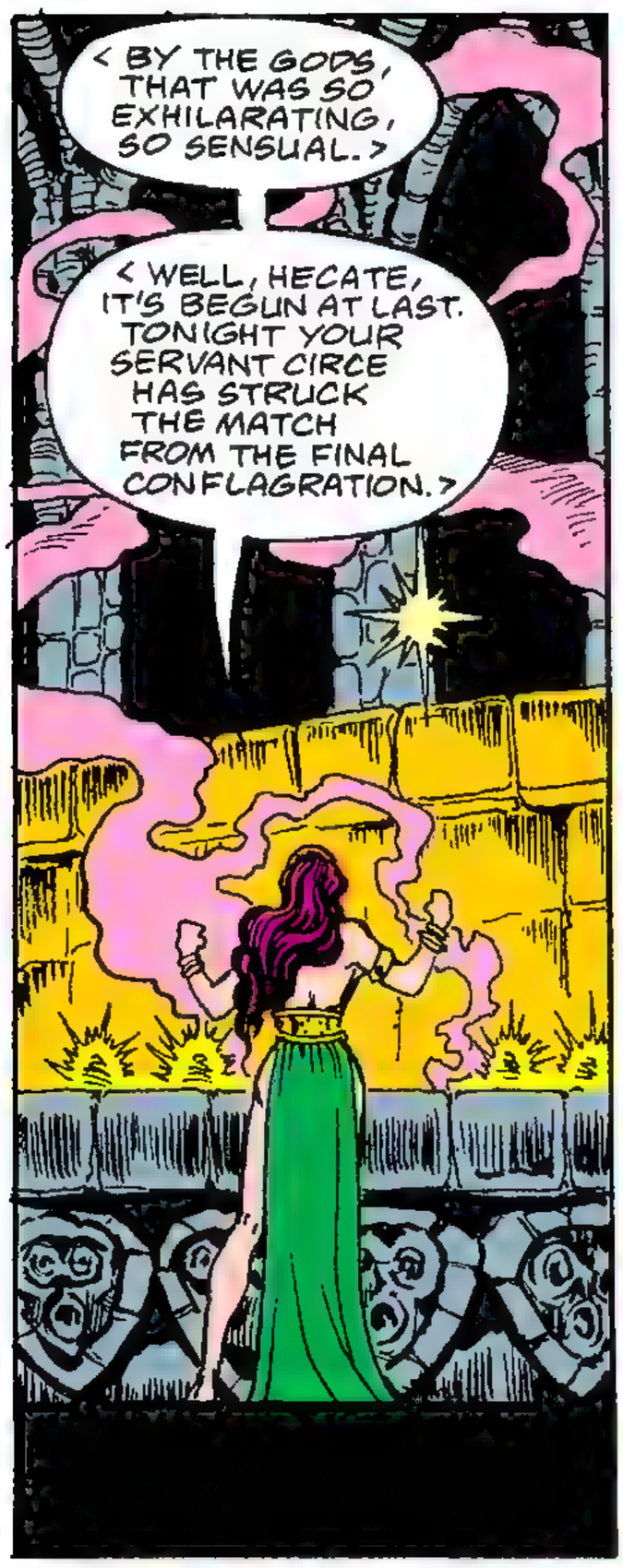
...MUST...

INZA!

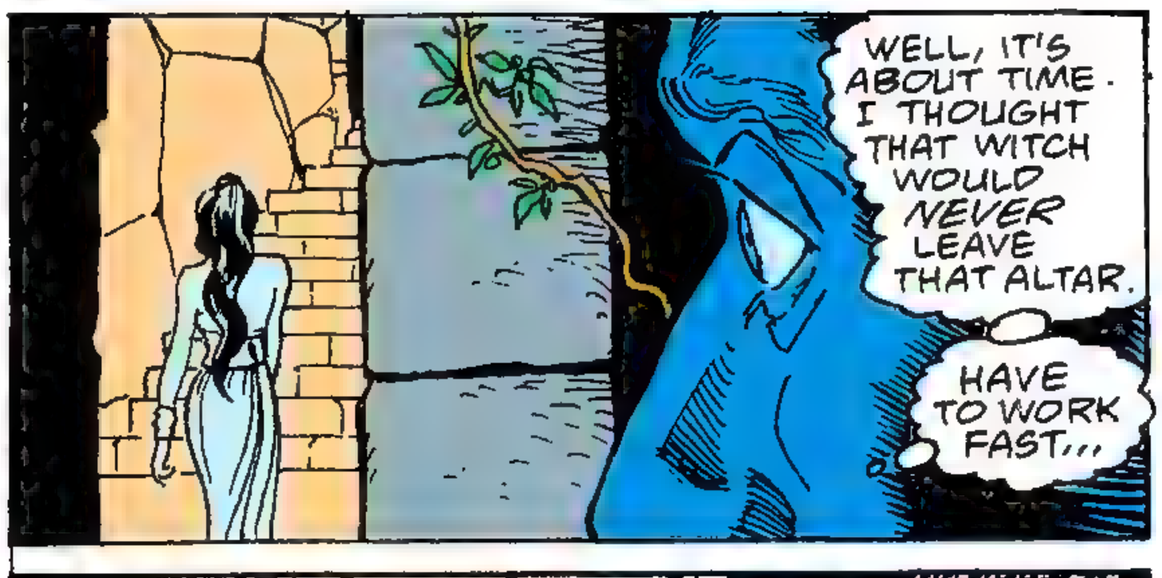
WHO!? INZA!? WHO!?

SWEETHEART, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? WHY ARE YOU STARING LIKE THAT?

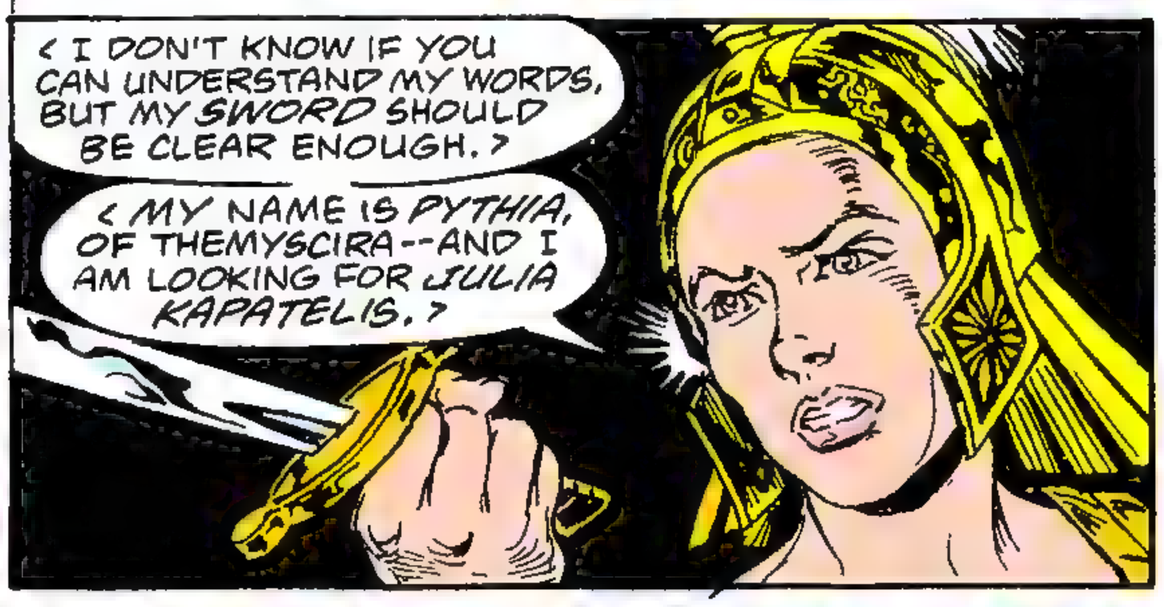
INZA, SPEAK TO ME.


< BY THE GODS, THAT WAS SO EXHILARATING, SO SENSUAL.>
< WELL, HECATE, IT'S BEGUN AT LAST. TONIGHT YOUR SERVANT CIRCE HAS STRUCK THE MATCH FROM THE FINAL CONFLAGRATION.>

< AND WHEN IT IS ALL OVER, I WILL FEAST ON THE ASHES--AND MY POWER WILL BE GREATER THAN EVER--
< MY OMNIPOTENCE SHALL HUMBLE THE GODS THEMSELVES--ALL OF THEM!>
< I CAN TASTE IT ALREADY.>


WELL, IT'S ABOUT TIME. I THOUGHT THAT WITCH WOULD NEVER LEAVE THAT ALTAR.
HAVE TO WORK FAST...

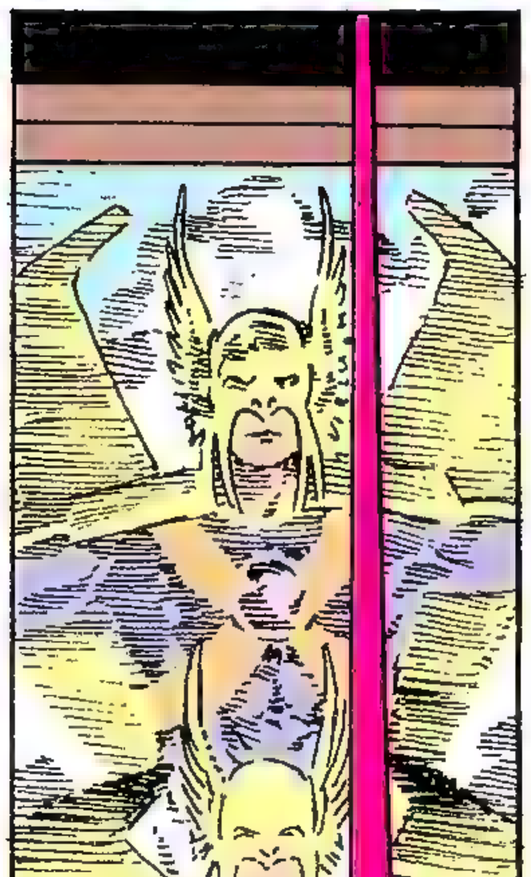
!
...CAN'T AFFORD CIRCE'S FINDING OUT WHAT I'VE DONE. SHE--


< I DON'T KNOW IF YOU CAN UNDERSTAND MY WORDS, BUT MY SWORD SHOULD BE CLEAR ENOUGH.>
< MY NAME IS PYTHIA, OF THEMYSCIRA--AND I AM LOOKING FOR JULIA KAPATELIS.>

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS...

THE EDWARDS MUSEUM...

THE THANAGARIAN EXHIBIT...


ANOTHER FIELD OF BATTLE IN THE HOLY WAR...

METROPOLIS...

STRANGE WORLDWIDE DISTURBANCES HAVE STUMPED THE ENTIRE INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY.

REPORTS OF UNBELIEVABLE GEOLOGICAL UPHEAVALS ARE COMING IN FASTER THAN OUR COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM CAN ASSIMILATE.

THOUGH NOT THE FIRST TIME IN RECENT MEMORY THAT EARTH HAS ENCOUNTERED SUCH ENVIRONMENTAL DISTURBANCES BY ALL INDICATIONS, THIS IS DEFINITELY THE WORST.

HEAR THAT, LOIS? NOT THE FIRST TIME, HE SAYS. I KNOW THAT I FOR ONE NEVER COUNTED ON IT HAPPENING AGAIN.

THEN, YOU THINK THIS INVOLVES THE KRYPTON MAN SOMEHOW?

I DON'T KNOW. IT CERTAINLY ALL LOOKS SIMILAR...

...AND YET, SOMETHING JUST DOESN'T *FEEL* RIGHT ABOUT IT.

COVER FOR ME, LOIS. I'VE GOT TO CHECK THIS OUT.

OKAY, CLARK, BUT, PLEASE, BE CAREFUL.

HI, MR. KENT, I WAS WONDERING IF I COULD GET A JOB REFERENCE FROM YOU FOR A--

NOT NOW, JIMMY. GO ASK LOIS. I-I DON'T HAVE TIME.

JEEPERS, WHAT'S EATING HIM?

OH, YOU KNOW CLARK, JIMMY. ALL THIS DOOMSDAY TALK IS GETTING TO HIM.

NOW, WHAT'S THIS ABOUT A JOB REFERENCE?

I WAS *SO SURE* THAT I'D SEEN THE LAST OF ALL THIS.

WELL, IF THESE EVENTS DO HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH EITHER KRYPTON MAN OR THAT BLASTED ERADICATOR, THEN, LIKE IT OR NOT, CLARK--

--THIS LOOKS LIKE A JOB FOR *SUPERMAN*.

NORTHPORT, LONG ISLAND, IN NEW YORK...

"LOOK OUT!"

JEEZ-US! THAT VAN NEARLY KILLED US!

IT'S CRASHED INTO THE TREES. C'MON!

IT'S A BABE. HEY, MISS--YOU ALL RIGHT?

UH-OH! I DON'T LIKE THIS. I THINK SHE'S A *DWI*!

NO... I DON'T THINK SO. THIS GIRL AIN'T DRUNK... SHE LOOKS LIKE SHE'S IN SOME KINDA *TRANCE*.

...DONNA... WHERE ARE YOU... DONNA...?

THE YOUNG PSYCHIC LILITH RECEIVES NO ANSWER. ALL SHE CAN HEAR IS THE VOICE OF A DEAR FRIEND IN TORMENT.

ALL LILITH CAN KNOW FOR SURE IS THAT HER FELLOW TITAN, DONNA TROY, A.K.A. TROIA, IS IN GREAT DANGER.

THE BATTLE OF OLYMPUS RAGES LIKE A TERRIBLE RAMPAGING STORM!

AWESOME POWER UNLEASHED IN A RAW, DESTRUCTIVE FRENZY.

GOD SEEKS TO DESTROY GOD, AND WITH EVERY CATACLYSMIC BLOW, THE BELLY OF THE COSMOS CONVULSES.

AND COUGHS UP ITS FIERY LIFE'S BLOOD.

CAPTAIN MARVEL! STOP! THE WHOLE UNIVERSE WILL BE DESTROYED BY THIS MADNESS!

IT'S NO USE. THAT YOUTHFUL SPARK THAT SO CHARACTERIZED HIM IS GONE FROM HIS EYES. HE IS BEWITCHED.

HIS POWER AND SPEED IS INCREDIBLE. I CAN'T JUST STAY ON THE DEFENSIVE. THERE'S TOO MUCH AT STAKE.

THOUGH MY HEART BREAKS AT THE THOUGHT, I MUST *FIGHT BACK...*

...EVEN IF IT BE TO THE *DEATH.*

BY THE HEAVENS... THAT RED GLADIATOR... WHY CAN I NOT ESCAPE THE FEELING...

...THAT... I *KNOW* HIM...?

AS THE GREEK LORD OF THE HEAVENS WATCHES, THE TWO CHAMPIONS CHARGE HEADLONG.

ONLY TO--

NO.!!

IT WAS NOT MY DOING. THAT WAS NOT MY BOLT!

YOU DESTROYED THEM!! DAMN YOU, JUPITER! WHY--

NO, LORD JUPITER--IT *WAS MINE!*

SURELY YOU DIDN'T THINK *I* COULD BE GOTTEN RID OF *THAT* EASILY.

I COULDN'T ALLOW YOU TO USE THAT BOY SO. MY BOLT MERELY TORE A HOLE IN OLYMPUS' WALL--

--SO THAT I COULD THRUST BOTH HIM AND THE AMAZON AWAY FROM YOUR INFLUENCE.

AS FOR ME...

AND THUS THE UNIVERSE IS STABBED AGAIN--

DAGGERS OF WAR PLUNGING DEEP INTO HER HEART--

SENDING SCREAMS ECHOING DEEP INTO THE FURTHEST RECESSES OF HER QUIVERING SOUL.

RESOUNDING EVEN AS FAR AS SINISTER APOKOLIPS.

SEE, O GREAT AND TERRIBLE DARKSEID. OUR TECHNICIANS WERE RIGHT! THE GREAT DISTURBANCE WE FELT EMANATED FROM *EARTH*!

IT IS A WORLD FALLING IN UPON ITSELF. IT IS VULNERABLE! NEVER AGAIN SHALL WE HAVE SO GREAT AN OPPORTUNITY--

SILENCE, DESAAD! YOUR PRATTLE IRRITATES ME.

THE TIME IS NOT RIGHT. WHATEVER MALADIES AFFLICT THAT ACCURSED GLOBE, LET IT CONSUME THE BEAST.

THEN WE SHALL PICK ON ITS CARCASS... IF THERE BE ANY. IS THAT CLEAR?

Y-YES... GREAT DARKSEID.

BY THE FIERY ENERGY PITS, THIS IS *INCONCEIVABLE*.

COULD IT BE MERELY *MY OWN* ANXIETY--

--OR DID I TRULY SENSE A HINT OF *FEAR* IN THE DARK LORD'S VOICE?

AND DEEPER STILL THE ECHOES RESONATE.

DEEPER INTO THE SOUL, DEEPER INTO REALITY'S *MIND*.

"TELEPATH? HEY! I'M TALKIN' TO YA!"

YER SUPPOSED TO BE KEEPIN' ME COMPANY, AIN'T YA? WANT ME TO TELL DOX HIS PET BEEN SLEEPIN' ON DA JOB?

DRINK, YA SPACE TOAD. THAT'S WHAT WE'RE HERE FOR.

YES, LOBO. LET'S TRY TO KEEP THIS... SOMEWHAT PEACEFUL... ALL RIGHT?

SHADDUP AND DRINK.

YES SIR.

WHILE IN A REALM BEYOND AND BETWEEN TIME AND SPACE...

GREAT GAEA! WE'RE PLUMMETING INTO *CHAOS*! BUT, HOW--?

BY JUPITER--NO!!

HERMES?

MERCURY?

WHAT ARE YOU TWO DOING HERE!? THIS WAS NOT PART OF THE BATTLE PLAN!

DIANA--ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? WHAT IS HAPPENING ON NEW OLYMPUS?

CAPTAIN MARVEL! I COMMAND YOU TO OBEY THE WILL OF ONE OF YOUR MYSTIC SEXTET.

THIS OTHER HELMETED ONE IS A *FALSE GOD*! HE WOULD DESTROY ALL THAT WE HOLD DEAR.

DESTROY HIM! DESTROY ALL WHO WOULD BLASPHEME THE NAME OF OLYMPUS!

DESTROY... ME?... DESTROY?

THE CAPTAIN SEEMS CONFUSED... MAYBE WHATEVER HAS POSSESSED HIS MIND HAS LIMITED CONTROL IN CHAOS.

IF I'M TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS SITUATION--

--I'D BEST DO IT QUICKLY.

TAKE HEART, CAPTAIN MARVEL. HESTIA'S LASSO OF TRUTH WILL NOT HARM YOU.

BUT, YOU ARE NOT YOURSELF-- PERHAPS NOW--

GREAT GAEA!

AAAAARRRRRHHH

IN ONE FLASHING, TERRIBLE MOMENT, EVEN THE UNSTABLE ESSENCE OF CHAOS IS TORN APART BY FORCES BEYOND DESCRIPTION.

AND DIANA KNOWS THAT SHE, IN SOME INEXPLICABLE WAY, IS RESPONSIBLE.

SHE... AND THE TREMBLING, CONVULSING FORM OF ONE OF EARTH'S MIGHTIEST MORTALS.

BY THE GODS... WHAT'S HAPPENING? THOSE IMAGES WHIRLING ABOUT CAPTAIN MARVEL.

...TORTURED SPIRITS... WAILING VOICES... CAN'T MAKE THEM OUT... ALL UNFAMILIAR...

WAIT... EXCEPT ONE...

DIANA! I KNOW NOT WHAT YOU'VE DONE, BUT IT HAS CERTAINLY PAINED THIS INFIDEL!

SO, INTERLOPER. YOU THOUGHT BY LYING IN WAIT FOR ME IN CHAOS YOU COULD ACTUALLY BEST A *TRUE* OLYMPIAN!

A MERE SETBACK, WORM--

-- THIS BATTLE IS FAR FROM OVER!

MERCURY'S CADUCEUS EXPLODES WITH POWER. HERMES TRIES TO SUPPRESS IT, BUT IT IS TOO LATE.

THE DEED IS DONE.

LIKE SHRAPNEL THE FOUR INVADERS ARE THRUST INTO THE SCATTERED HOLES IN CHAOS' FIRMAMENT.

...THROUGH ANOTHER TOPPLE THE TWIN MESSENGER GODS, STILL ENSNARED IN BATTLE...

...AND THROUGH THE DEEPEST, FURTHEST HOLE PLUMMETS CAPTAIN MARVEL.

ALTHOUGH, IN HIS CASE, IT IS NOT A PLUMMET EXACTLY--

THROUGH ONE CHASM FALLS PRINCESS DIANA...

--MORE LIKE A GREAT YANK. AS IF HE WERE DELIBERATELY BEING PULLED. AS IF HE WERE BEING REELED IN--

AS IF SOMEHOW, SOME WAY, A PSYCHIC FISHERMAN HAD SNAGGED ITS HOOK ON HIS MIND--

FEETAL'S GIZZ! WHAT'S FRAGGIN' BOTHERIN' YA NOW!?

THAT TEARS IT. AIN'T GOOD FER MY REP HANGIN' 'ROUND SOME WIMP WHO CAN'T EVEN HOLD HIS BISMOLLIAN GROG!

YA JUST LIE THERE, WIMP. LOBO'S GONNA DOWN THIS FIZZ WATER AND SEE IF THERE'S ANY *REAL* ACTION ON THIS TURD BALL.

MAYBE SOME TOUGHIE OUT THERE IN LINE FOR AN AMPUTATION OR--

CRASH

HOLY MOLEY! HOW'D I GET HERE? THIS SURE ISN'T KANSAS--OR MUNCHKIN LAND... I THINK.

THE LAST THING I REMEMBER IS TALKING TO MARY...

THEN--CRASH!--I LANDED ON SOMETHING *HARD.*

UH-OH.

HEY, MISTER, I'M SORRY. IT WAS AN ACCIDENT. I'LL BE GLAD TO PAY FOR YOUR DRINK AND--

WELL, WELL... ASK AND YA SHALL RECEIVE... AMPUTATION CITY...

FACE IT, LOBO--THERE IS A GOD.

SOMEWHERE DEEP IN THE ATLANTIC OCEAN...

EH?

VOICES? FAMILIAR VOICES...

ARTHUR CURRY... OF... ATLANTIS...

YES, ARTHUR CURRY, THE VOICES OF THE SEA.

IT IS WE, THE NEREIDS, ATTENDANTS OF OUR LORD POSEIDON OF THE SEAS. THOUGH WE HAVE HERETOFORE NEVER SPOKEN DIRECTLY, YOU DO RECOGNIZE US.

YES... BUT WHY DO YOU COME TO ME NOW?

THERE IS GREAT DANGER, ARTHUR CURRY...

A DANGER THAT THREATENS ALL OF ATLANTIS.

THAT'S ALL I NEEDED TO KNOW.

JUSTICE LEAGUE HEADQUARTERS...

IT IS MORE TERRIBLE THAN I THINK. ALL OF RUSSIA IS IN PANIC. I MUST GO TO FAMILY--

EASY, RED. WE GOTTA KEEP OUR COOL. WE'LL BE ABLE TO HANDLE THIS, TRUST ME.

YEAH, RIGHT.

FLASH CALLING IN FROM KEYSTONE CITY. SOME WEIRD WIND-STORMS ARE BREAKING OUT OVER HERE, LIKE A COUPLE OF HURRICANES DUKING IT OUT.

CAN'T GET BACK TO YOU RIGHT NOW. I'VE GOTTA CHECK THIS OUT.

OKAY, FLASH... JUST GET BACK AS SOON AS YOU CAN, OKAY?

POWER GIRL, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? METAMORPHO--

HUH? POWER GIRL? WHAT IS IT?

...ATLANTIS...

WHAT? WHAT DID SHE SAY?

...ATLANTIS... MUST GO TO... ATLANTIS...

WASHINGTON, DC...

THE INSTITUTE FOR THE CRIMINALLY INSANE...

"YES, IT IS AS THE OMENS PREDICTED! THE DAY OF RETRIBUTION IS HERE!"

O GODDESS OF THE SUN, I KNEW THE BLASPEMERS WERE FOOLS TO THINK YOU COULD BE VANQUISHED!

TAKE ME, O MAGNIFICENT HUITZILOPOCHTLI! I AM READY.

YOU WERE MERELY LYING IN WAIT, RESTING UNTIL THE TIME WAS RIGHT, WHEN YOUR SERVANT *AZURE* WOULD BE DEEMED WORTHY AGAIN!

TAKE ME.

"WELL, CALVIN? WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF IT?"

"DAMNED IF I KNOW, BULLDOZER. I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT. THIS IS A WHOLE LOT DIFFERENT THAN EXPLORING CAVES."

WHY DID S.T.A.R. LABS HAVE TO PICK US FOR THIS JOB?

PROBABLY 'CAUSE THE WEATHER CONDITIONS MADE GETTING ANOTHER EXPLORATION TEAM HERE IMPOSSIBLE RIGHT NOW.

EXPLORING SOME OF THE ANTARCTIC GLACIAL CAVERNS PUT US IN THE RIGHT PLACE AT THE RIGHT TIME.

WHOOPIE FOR US. I STILL PREFER CAVES.

WHOA.

"WHAT IS IT? CALVIN?"

"YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BELIEVE IT.

"IT LOOKS LIKE...SOME GUY IN A GREEN CAPE. JUST FLOATING IN THE LIGHT. THE LOOK ON HIS FACE..."

"WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? CARSON, YOU-- HOLY MOTHER--

"THE SENSOR GAUGES! THEY'RE GOING CRAZY. THE ENERGY READINGS--GOOD GOD! THEY--"

AS IF STRUCK BY A BLAZING HAMMER OF GOD, THE FLOOR OF THE DISTANT ANTARCTIC ICE SHELF EXPLODES IN A BURST OF EMERALD LIGHT.

THE SHOCK WAVES POUND THE PERIMETER OF ICE AND FROST, TOPPLING TOWERS OF FROZEN CRYSTAL INTO THE WIDENING CHASMS BELOW.

BULLDOZER! CAN YOU HEAR ME? ARE YOU--

HOLY--

GRRRRRRR!

"CAL...! WHAT THE DEVIL WAS THAT? HOW CAN ANYTHING SO BIG MOVE THAT FAST!?"

"DAMN IT, BULLDOZER, I DON'T KNOW! MY BIG QUESTION IS WHERE THE HELL THAT MONSTER IS HEADING?!"

ON YOUR WAY, CREATURE OF THE ICE. LET PHOBOS REVEL IN THE PANIC YOU STIR.

LET DEATH AND FEAR REIGN SUPREME--IN METROPOLIS!

AND SO... THE WAR CONTINUES...

...IN **WONDER WOMAN** #58, **SUPERMAN: THE MAN OF STEEL** #3, **HAWKWORLD** #15, **STARMAN** #38, **L.E.G.I.O.N. '91** #31, **CAPTAIN ATOM** #56, **DOCTOR FATE** #32, **FLASH** #55, AND **WAR OF THE GODS** #2!

HARD TO BELIEVE WE'LL BE BACK IN *METROPOLIS* IN A FEW DAYS, EH, CAPTAIN JORDAN?

IT'S BEEN AN *EVENTFUL* TRIP, SIR. WHAT ARE YOU FOLKS UP TO THIS FINE AFTERNOON?

A LITTLE *SIGHTSEEING*... JONATHAN AND MARTHA WANT TO BUY A PRESENT FOR THEIR *SON*.

I DON'T WANT TO BOTHER THE KENTS, BUT, TELL ME, CAPTAIN, *TRUTHFULLY*-- HOW SAFE IS *TATTAMALIA*?

THE REVOLUTIONARIES HAVE BEEN MORE *ACTIVE* OF LATE, MR. WHITE, BUT THE *CAPITAL* SHOULD BE SAFE ENOUGH.

"WHAT A GLORIOUS DAY..."

...AND LOOK AT THAT GORGEOUS OLD *BUILDING*...!

MAP SAYS IT'S THE LOCAL SEAT OF *GOVERNMENT*, MARTHA. MARKET SQUARE'S ON BEYOND...

PRESIDENT *SALVADORE*...

...YOU HAVE FINAL INSTRUCTIONS CONCERNING MY NEGOTIATIONS?

NEGOTIATIONS FORCED BY THE *REVOLUTIONARIES*, THROUGH THEIR INFAMOUS DEALINGS WITH THOSE *TERRORISTS*!

IT *GALLS* ONE, MR. PRESIDENT... BUT IT IS *OUR* CAUSE WHICH BENEFITS.

I'M NOT SO SURE. CERBERUS HAS COME TO *ME* FOR RECOMPENSE.

WILL YOU *PAY*...?

THERE IS NOT ENOUGH WEALTH IN ALL *TATTAMALIA* TO MEET THEIR DEMANDS.

THEY DID US NO FAVOR. BEING OWNED BY *LEXCORP* WOULD BE BAD ENOUGH. WHAT WILL IT BE LIKE TO BE ENSLAVED TO *CERBERUS*?

AH, WELL... THAT IS *MY* PROBLEM. I WISH YOU LUCK IN...

SUPERMAN: THE MAN OF STEEL 3. September, 1991. Published monthly by DC Comics Inc., 1325 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10019. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to SUPERMAN: THE MAN OF STEEL, DC Comics Subscriptions, P.O. Box 0528, Baldwin, NY 11510. Annual subscription rate $12.00. Canadian subscribers must add $8.00 for postage and GST. GST # is R125921072. All other foreign countries must add $12.00 for postage. U.S. funds only.
Copyright © 1991 DC Comics Inc. All Rights Reserved. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. All characters featured in this issue and distinctive likenesses thereof are trademarks of DC Comics Inc. Advertising Representative: Print Advertising Representatives, 355 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY 10017 (212) 949-6850. Printed in U.S.A.
DC Comics Inc. A Warner Bros. Inc. Company

"...YOUR NEGOTIATIONS WITH LEXCORP..."

EVEN AS TATTAMALIA'S AMBASSADOR MAKES MUMBLING CONCESSIONS IN THE EXECUTIVE SUITE...

...THIS BOMB WILL SCREAM THE OUTRAGE OF OUR OPPRESSED PEOPLES!

LEXCORP PLAZA SERVICE ENTRANCE B LEXCORP SECURITY

SERVICE AREA B1-3 PHYSICAL PLANT AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL ONLY

ACME SECURITY SYSTEMS INC. 800-555-2383

DO YOU REALLY THINK IT WILL CONVINCE THEM THAT WE CONTROL THE FUTURE OF TATTAMALIA...

...AND THAT ANY NEGOTIATIONS MUST BE WITH US?

METRO TR-QB4 COMMERCIAL

BOILER 2 LEXCORP CO.

WHY NOT? THEY FOLDED TO CERBERUS'S DEMANDS... WHY SHOULD THEY NOT FOLD TO OURS?

CERBERUS HAS MADE IT CLEAR TO THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL THAT, IF THEIR FEE IS NOT PAID, OUR ISLAND WILL SUFFER!

WHEN WE CONTROL OUR COUNTRY'S WEALTH, THAT WILL NOT BE AN ISSUE!

AND IF WE FAIL--?

CARLO, WHAT WAS--?

WHOOSH!

SUPERMAN!

LOUISE SIMONSON - WRITER
JON BOGDANOVE . DENNIS JANKE
ARTIST INKER
BILL OAKLEY . GLENN WHITMORE
LETTERER COLORIST
DAN THORSLAND - ASSISTANT ED.
MIKE CARLIN - EDITOR
SUPERMAN created by
JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER

QUETZALCOATL HELP US! WE ARE SET UPON BY TETZCATLIPOCA HIMSELF!

YOU'RE IN ENOUGH TROUBLE AS IT IS. DON'T MAKE IT *WORSE!*

BUDDA- BUDDA- BUDDA!

BLAM! BAM! BDAM!

YOU WOULDN'T HAVE LIKED IT IF I'D LET THEM *RICO-CHET* OFF MY CHEST IN THIS SMALL PLACE.

AH, FINALLY I HAVE FOUND THE MAN OF STEEL!

BUT WHO ARE THESE FOOLISH MORTALS WHO CRY OUT TO AN ANCIENT GOD...

...LONG AGO LAID TO *REST!* THIS IS NOT *HIS* LAND...

KRATCH! KRUMP!

NOW GIVE ME THE *GUNS!*

QUETZALCOATL HAS *ABANDONED* US, FOR WE HAVE TRULY *FAILED!*

WHAT WILL *CERBERUS* DO NOW--?

QUETZALCOATL! SAVE US, FOR WE ARE DOOMED TO PERISH!

I'VE HARDLY TOUCHED YOU! WHAT'S ALL THE *CATERWAULING* ABOUT...

...QUETZALCOATL. A GOD LONG GONE. HMMMM...

I HAVE IT! HE IS THE ANSWER!

THEY CALL OUT TO THE SERPENT, BUT IT IS I, PHOBOS, GOD OF TERROR, WHO WILL *AWAKEN* HIM!

QUETZALCOATL --AWAKEN!

WHOOP WHOOP WHOOP WHOOP WHOOP

EXCORP PLAZ

I'VE DEACTIVATED THEIR BOMB. IT'S A RELATIVELY UNSOPHISTICATED CONSTRUCTION.

THEY'RE NOT WITH CERBERUS, THEN...?

POLICE

M.P.D.

14

I DOUBT IT, SIR. I THINK THEY'RE WHAT THEY SEEM TO BE--SIMPLE REVOLUTIONARIES.

THEIR AMBASSADOR IS INSIDE NEGOTIATING WITH LEXCORD CONCERNING THEIR PROPOSED TAKEOVER OF TATTAMALIA'S INDUSTRY.

SPEAKING OF THE DEVIL...

I BELIEVE THAT BOMB WAS MEANT TO INTERRUPT MY NEGOTIATIONS WITH LEXCORP.

THERE IS MUCH TURMOIL AND DISSENSION IN OUR SMALL COUNTRY. I THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIMELY INTERVENTION ON OUR BEHALF.

LOOK! AMBASSADOR TOUTAIN!

THAT TRAITOROUS LEECH WHO GROWS FAT ON THE BLOOD OF OUR PEOPLE!

I HAVE FAILED. MY *VOICE*, TERRIBLE THOUGH IT IS, HAS NOT THE STRENGTH TO *ROUSE* THE SERPENT LORD.

YOU *REALLY* THINK THEY HAVE NO CONNECTION TO CERBERUS?

IT SEEMS UNLIKELY, LOIS. THE CERBERUS ORGANIZATION IS TECHNOLOGICAL...

AND YET, *SUPERMAN* HAS POWER TO RIVAL EVEN THE *GODS*. HIS INTERVENTION COULD RUIN OUR PLANS.

I MUST *THINK*! I MUST *DISTRACT* HIM! BUT *HOW*?

THE EMERGENCE OF *QUETZALCOATL* WOULD BE THE PERFECT ANSWER. AND NO ONE WOULD SUSPECT THE *GODS* OF *ROME*...

BUT HOW TO *AWAKEN* HIM? I NEED AN *AMPLIFIER*... AN OBJECT OF TERRIBLE *POWER*. WHERE WILL I FIND ONE...?

WHERE ON *EARTH*...?

AH! IN THE *ANTARCTIC*. A *STONE*... A PRISON FOR *SOULS*. IN *SHARDS* NOW... AND YET FILLED WITH THE UNREALIZED *POWER*.

A STONE INTIMATELY *CONNECTED* TO SUPERMAN! I WILL *REBUILD* IT, THEN *GO* THERE...

...TO LOCATE THE JEWEL...

...TO MANIPULATE ITS ELDRITCH ENERGIES...

...AND FOCUS ITS VAST POWER...

"...TO ROUSE THE SERPENT LORD!"

RAIN-MAKER! GOD OF THE WIND! CREATOR OF LIFE! FATHER OF THE COSMOS! QUETZALCOATL-- AWAKEN!

YOUR WORSHIPPERS ARE MENACED BY AN *UNBELIEVER*, A SERVANT OF THE WAR GOD TETZCATLIPOCA...

...WHOSE VERY AURA *PERMEATES* THIS ICY LANDSCAPE!

BEFUDDLED AS HIS MIND WILL BE WITH SLEEP, THE ACTION OF THIS *STONE*...

...IN *THIS PLACE* CONSECRATED TO THE ALIEN PLANET *KRYPTON*, WILL LINK HIS UNTIMELY *AWAKENING* TO THE MAN OF STEEL!

SO EVEN IN HIS *WAKING DREAM*, QUETZALCOATL WILL KNOW HIS ENEMY. AND WILL ACT TO *DESTROY* HIM.

WHILE HIS APPEARANCE IN *METROPOLIS* WILL BOTH GRATIFY HIS SUBJECTS' *FAITH*...

...AND *DISTRACT* THE MAN OF STEEL DURING MY *OTHER* FORAYS ON THIS EARTH!

LOIS LANE! PRESS!

SORRY, MISS LANE. THERE'S NO AUTHORIZATION!

I SPEAK SPANISH, AND THESE GUYS HAVE A STORY TO TELL. AROUND HERE, THAT MAY BE AUTHORIZATION ENOUGH!

(YOU CALLED OUT TO SOMEONE... IT SOUNDED LIKE *QUETZALCOATL*, THE MAYAN GOD OF CREATION!)

(IT IS *HE* WE SERVE! OUR *PRESIDENTE* RULES OUR LAND BY *FORCE*! LEXCORP TRIES TO STEAL IT THROUGH *DECEIT*!)

(BOTH SERVE THE WAR-SORCERER, THE TRICKSTER-USURPER *TETZCATLIPOCA*!)

TETZCATLIPOCA, GOD OF DESTRUCTION!

THEIR REVOLUTION MUST BE DEDICATED TO THE RESTORATION OF THEIR ANCIENT MAYAN GLORY! BUT THEN...

(WHY DO THE SERVANTS OF THE GOD OF *LIFE* WIELD THE TOOLS OF *DEATH*?)

SHE SPEAKS *OUR* LANGUAGE! SHE UNDERSTANDS THE PRINCIPLES WE SERVE! PERHAPS THERE IS HOPE FOR US...

(AT FIRST *OUR* HANDS WERE CLEAN! *OTHERS* APPLIED THE FORCE!)

(BUT LEXCORP NEGOTIATES WITH OUR COUNTRY'S *LEADERS*... AND SO WE HAVE BEEN LEFT NO *CHOICE*!)

COME ON, MISS LANE! *OUT*! ANYTHING THEY GOT TO SAY, THEY CAN SAY IT TO THE *D.A.* FIRST!

WEREN'T YOU LISTENING? DIDN'T YOU UNDERSTAND A WORD THEY SAID?

I NO "SPEAKA DA LINGO!"

PARANORMAL DETAINMENT UNIT
101-105
106-110

WHAT ABOUT *THOSE* TWO?

CERBERUS'S *CYBORGS*? WHAT DO THEY HAVE *TO* DO WITH ANYTHING?

THEY BEEN LIKE THAT SINCE THEY *GOT* HERE. YOU AIN'T GETTIN' NUTHIN' *OUTTA* THEM. NOW *COME ON!*

IT WAS INCREDIBLE, BUT... CAN WHAT THE REVOLUTIONARY HINTED AT BE TRUE?

WHAT EXACTLY IS CERBERUS'S INVOLVEMENT IN THEIR REVOLUTION? AND HOW DOES IT AFFECT--

"--TATTAMALIA?"

WE'LL TAKE *THAT* ONE! OUR BOY CLARK WILL JUST *LOVE* IT, WON'T HE, JONATHAN?

IF YOU *SAY* SO, MARTHA!

AND WHAT CAN WE DO... PLACE A PRESENT ON *OUR* SON'S *GRAVE*? NO, THAT'S NOT FAIR. THEY'RE SUCH *GOOD* PEOPLE... AND SO LUCKY.

AND THERE'S MORE TO IT THAN OUR SON'S DEATH. IT'S ALSO WHAT HIS DEATH REVEALED.

THAT HE *WASN'T OUR* SON. HE WAS MINE... AND *LEX LUTHOR'S*.

AND NOW, WE HAVE NO ONE... EXCEPT *MAYBE* EACH OTHER.

IF HE STILL WANTS ME. HE'S A *GOOD* MAN. HE WANTS *SO* HARD TO *FORGIVE* ME. EVEN THOUGH I HURT HIM SO...

FOR A WHILE, I THOUGHT WE WOULD WORK IT OUT... THAT WE'D BE OKAY. BUT IT LOOKS LIKE TAKING THIS CRUISE TOGETHER DIDN'T HELP US, AFTER ALL.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN THE WORLD BANK WILL NOT ADVANCE US FUNDS? DIDN'T I TELL YOU--FOR TATTAMALIA, IT IS A MATTER OF LIFE OR DEATH!

PRESIDENT SALVADORE! THE MANGO FIELDS ARE BURNING! WE ARE UNDER ATTACK!

QUICKLY! WE MUST--

BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA SKLASH

THAPT

THAK

THOK

MR. PRESIDENT! THOSE ARE AH-1 COBRAS! IS THIS THE WORK OF THE REVOLUTIONARIES?

FOOL! WHY WOULD THEY DESTROY THEIR OWN COUNTRY?

WE HAVE ONLY ONE ENEMY POWERFUL ENOUGH... IMPLACABLE ENOUGH... TO LAUNCH THIS DEVASTATING ATTACK!

"CERBERUS!"

THOOM!

THOOM!

THOOM!

THOOM!

THRUUMMMMMMMMM!

(THE JUNGLE IS ON FIRE!)

(WE'RE UNDER ATTACK!)

(RUN!)

COME ON, MARTHA! THE MARKET SQUARE IS THE *LAST* PLACE WE WANT TO BE RIGHT NOW!

EVEN THE *STONES* SEEM TO BE ON FIRE! WHAT *IS* IT, PERRY?

NAPALM!

INTO THE *CHURCH!* ANOTHER WAVE OF HELICOPTERS IS COMING!

HE'S RIGHT! ITS THICK ADOBE WALLS WILL BE *SOME* PROTECTION...

"... FROM THAT WALL OF FLAME..."

DAILY PLANET

(IS THIS THE TATTAMALIAN GAZETTE... YES... JOSEP ARMANEZ... HI, JOSEP! YEAH, LOIS LANE. WHAT ARE YOU DOING ANSWERING THE PHONES?)

(LISTEN... WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT YOUR REVOLUTION-ARIES BRINGING IN THE BIG GUNS? I--)

(YEAH, I HEARD THAT!)

(WHAT DO YOU MEAN THEY'RE JUST OUTSIDE YOUR WINDOW?)

(JOSEP? JOSEP!)

CLARK, THERE WAS AN EXPLOSION AND THE LINE WENT--

CLARK?!?

FUNNY. ALMOST HARD TO BELIEVE THAT, NOT LONG AGO, I USED TO WONDER...

"... WHY HE WAS ALWAYS DISAPPEARING LIKE THAT..."

BOOM

PERRY WHITE, YOU *STOP*! YOU'RE NOT A WAR CORRESPONDENT ANYMORE!

GREAT CAESAR'S GHOST, ALICE, THE MAN'S ON *FIRE*!

ROLL HIM UP IN THIS TAPESTRY... IT'LL *SMOTHER* THE FLAMES!

GOOD THINKING, JONATHAN! NOW AT LEAST THE BOY WILL HAVE A CHANCE!

SOUNDS LIKE HE'S *CALLING SOMEONE*! WHAT IN TARNATION IS THAT HE'S SCREAMING?

(QUETZALCOATL, LORD OF LIFE, AVENGE US!)

"(PRESERVE US FROM OUR ENEMIES!)"

SOMEONE CALLS... PLEADS FOR MY *HELP*, HIS VOICE FILLED WITH *AGONY*!

BUT WHERE IS HE CALLING *FROM*? NOT FAR TO THE NORTH, AS HE-WHO-AWAKENED-ME SUGGESTS...

...BUT *THERE!* AN ISLAND, ONCE GREEN WITH JUNGLE...

...NOW BLACKENED WITH SMOKE AND THE STENCH OF DEATH!

FROOM!

AND WHAT ARE *THESE?* *PFAUGH!* BY THEIR *AURA* I KNOW THEM!

METAL *INSECTS!* *WASPS*... WHOSE STING IS FIRE AND PAIN! *SERVANTS* OF THE WAR *GOD* *TETZCATLIPOCA!*

BOOM!

FIE! AWAY WITH YOU! AFFLICT NOT...

BTOOM!

...MY SUFFERING PEOPLE!

WOOOSH

...BUT NOT TO ME!

CRASH

WHAT IS THAT SOUND? PRAYERS... FROM THE TEMPLE OF THE GOD OF THE EUROPEAN CORTEZ... THE CHURCH THAT FORCED ME INTO DORMANCY!

INSIDE THAT TEMPLE THEY PRAY...

ANOTHER BOMB!

IT STRUCK THE STEEPLE!

THE ROOF IS FALLING!

THAT RUMBLING--!

THUNDER?

ALICE!

PERRY...

TATTAMALIA'S *AFLAME!* MOST OF THE ISLAND IS *BURNING!* IT'S EVEN WORSE THAN I FEARED!

GREAT SCOTT! A SERPENT WRITHING IN THE SKY!

IS *THAT* WHAT CAUSED THIS DEVASTATION?

--AND YET--MY PEOPLE HAVE OFTEN BEEN FOOLISH! THEY NEED TIME TO MATURE, TO FIND THE *RIGHT* PATH!

THAT IS NO REASON TO DESTROY-- *URK!*

THE *FOOLS* *HUDDLE* IN THEIR PUNY TEMPLE, PLEADING TO THEIR *GOD* FOR SUCCOR! BUT I, WHO HAVE SAVED THEM, THEY *IGNORE!*

I COULD *PUNISH* THEM--

THOOM!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU ARE, BUT I CAN SEE WHAT YOU'VE *DONE*--

MY RAMPAGE ?!?

FLING!

HE'S STRONG! AND HIS ROARS ARE LIKE *THUNDER* !

--AND THIS IS THE *END* OF YOUR RAMPAGE !

AND YET, HIS RUMBLINGS ALMOST SOUND... LIKE *WORDS* !

THAT'S *MADNESS* ! BUT THEN, *SO* IS *HE* ! WHAT *IS* HE, ANYWAY? WHERE DID HE *COME FROM* ?

WHACK!

WELL *STRUCK*, LITTLE BROTHER ! WELL STRUCK, INDEED ! YOU'VE CLEARED MY HEAD OF *SLEEP*, AT ANY RATE !

NO MATTER ! I KNOW WHERE HE'S *GOING* !

I FELT YOUR *AURA* IN THE PLACE OF MY AWAKENING, AND YET IT WAS NOT *YOU* WHO CALLED ME FROM MY REST.

THE LOOK IN HIS EYES! SO INTELLIGENT! ALMOST AMUSED WHEN I EXPECTED *RAGE*! AND HIS RUMBLING... IS IT POSSIBLE?

CAN IT BE A LANGUAGE THAT HE'S SPEAKING? BUT IF HE'S INTELLIGENT, WHY DID HE DO ALL *THIS*?

IT WAS NOT I, BUT *MEN*, EVIL SERVANTS OF *WAR*, WHOSE FLYING WEAPONS RAINED FIRE ON THOSE BELOW!

AS YOU SEE, IT WAS MY PLEASURE TO *DESTROY* THEM!

HELICOPTERS! DRONES! IT WAS *CERBERUS*!

SOMEHOW, I'VE BEGUN TO *UNDERSTAND* HIM... AND HE SEEMS TO READ MY *THOUGHTS*! AT LAST I'LL GET SOME ANSWERS!

WHO *ARE* YOU?

I AM *QUETZALCOATL*, ONCE GOD OF LIFE TO THE FOLK BELOW! BUT AS THESE... *CERBERUS* ...LEARNED, MY OTHER FACE IS *DEATH*!

THE DESTRUCTION OF THE TEMPLE WAS *ACCIDENTAL*, LITTLE BROTHER, AT LEAST IN *PART*.

WHY DO YOU CALL ME "*LITTLE BROTHER*"?

WHO BUT *ANOTHER GOD* COULD CHALLENGE ME SO BRASHLY AND *SO WELL*?

I'M *NOT* A GOD, QUETZALCOATL, BUT NOW, I ALMOST WISH I *WERE*. THE JUNGLE IS BURNING... AND THE TOWNS AND FIELDS...

I KNOW, LITTLE BROTHER, I DO NOT BELONG HERE IN THIS AGE, AND SO I LACK MY FULL POWER TO RESTORE...

...BUT THERE IS *SOMETHING* I, AT LEAST, CAN DO TO *QUELL* THE FLAMES BEFORE RETURNING TO MY INTERRUPTED REST.

I AM THE GOD OF LIFE AND DEATH, BUT ALSO, OF WIND... AND CLOUDS... AND *RAIN*!

HE'S SWELLING EVEN *LARGER*... 'TIL HE *BECOMES* A TOWERING LOFT OF CLOUDS...

...AND FROM THEM CRACKS OF *LIGHTNING* AND A DRIVING *RAIN* TO QUELL THE BLAZE *BELOW*.

BUT THE FIELDS ARE DESTROYED... PEOPLE TRAPPED... HURT! I'LL HAVE TO SEE WHAT I CAN DO... TO SALVAGE WHAT I CAN.

SO QUETZALCOATL *SACRIFICED HIMSELF* TO SAVE HIS PEOPLE! STILL, THE MAN OF STEEL SHOULD BE BUSY HERE FOR A TIME, AT ANY RATE...

...AWAY FROM HIS OWN LAND, SO WE MAY PROCEED. WE ARE LUCKY, THERE IS STILL...

"...SO MUCH TO DO."

JONATHAN, I THOUGHT YOU'D NEVER WAKE UP! WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?

GOT TO ...HELP PERRY...

YOU STAY PUT! LAND SAKES, I'LL HELP HIM WITH ALICE, NOW I'VE GOT *YOU* CLEAR!

SHE'LL *DIE* UNDER THERE, THINKING I DON'T LOVE HER...

...THINKING I DON'T *CARE*! I'VE BEEN SUCH A *FOOL*!

LET *ME* HELP, OLD FRIEND!

ALICE!

PERRY... ?

ALICE... DARLING... THANK GOD! I WAS AFRAID I'D LOST YOU, TOO!

YOU FOLKS OKAY?

WE'RE FINE, SON-- ER-- YOUNG MAN. BUT THERE'S PLENTY OF OTHER FOLKS WHO NEED YOUR HELP. SO YOU HURRY ON--

AND WE'LL SEE YOU SOON...

"...BACK IN METROPOLIS."

THERE ARE ENOUGH POCKETS OF RAIN-FOREST FOR THE BIOSYSTEM TO RECOVER IN A FEW GENERATIONS, BUT TATTAMALIA'S ECONOMY IS IN TOTAL RUIN.

-5472-

LEXCORP HAS GIVEN UP ALL CLAIMS TO TATTAMALIA... BUT IT SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN A PYRRHIC VICTORY FOR THE REVOLU-TIONARIES.

THERE'S NOT MUCH LEFT THERE FOR ANYONE TO WANT.

EVEN CERBERUS.

MA! PA!

CANARD LINES

CLARK, LOOK AT PERRY AND ALICE! THEY'RE HOLDING HANDS. I HAVEN'T SEEN THEM LOOK SO HAPPY SINCE BEFORE THEIR SON DIED!

WELL, AS MUCH FUN AS WE HAD, SON -- AND DON'T THINK WE DIDN'T-- IT'S GOOD TO BE HOME. AND WAIT TILL YOU SEE WHAT WE BOUGHT YOU!

JONATHAN, WHERE'S THAT SHOPPING BAG?

HERE YOU GO, CLARK.

MA, PA-- THANKS! YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE! UM... WHAT... IS IT?

WHY, IT'S THE MAYAN RAIN-SERPENT, SON, QUETZALCOATL! SOMETHING TOLD ME IT WOULD BE JUST PERFECT!

END

THROUGHOUT THE UNIVERSE THERE IS HEARD THE SOUND OF THUNDER.

THE DEAFENING ECHOES OF HISTORY RESOUNDING -- OF SINS REPEATED. THE ROAR OF ARMAGEDDON.

THE SHEER, UNBRIDLED POWER OF GODS AT WAR!

THE HOLY WARS

The War of the Gods--Book 13

STORY AND LAYOUTS: GEORGE PÉREZ
FINISHED ART: RUSSELL BRAUN, CYNTHIA MARTIN AND ROMEO TANGHAL
LETTERING: ALBERT DE GUZMAN
COLORS: GENE D'ANGELO
EDITORIAL ASSISTANCE: BOB KAHAN
EDITORS: KAREN BERGER AND TOM PEYER

WAR OF THE GODS 2. October, 1991. Published monthly by DC Comics Inc., 1325 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10019. Copyright © 1991 DC Comics Inc. All Rights Reserved. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. All characters featured in this issue and distinctive likenesses thereof are trademarks of DC Comics Inc. Printed in U.S.A.
DC Comics Inc. A Warner Bros. Inc. Company

TRAITOROUS MONGREL! I SHOULD HAVE MADE CERTAIN YOU WERE KILLED AT THE RIVER STYX!

NO, HERCULES--IT WASN'T I WHO WENT AGAINST THE OLYMPIAN IDEAL. IT WAS ALL OF YOU--FROM JUPITER ON DOWN.

SURELY NO SANE OLYMPIAN WOULD HAVE SO DEBASED ITSELF BY ABUSING A CHILD LIKE *BILLY BATSON.*

ENOUGH! THE BOY WAS TAKEN BY JUPITER BECAUSE *YOU* TURNED *AGAINST US!*

I COULD SEE IT IN MY FATHER VULCAN'S EYES AS WELL--A STRANGE MADNESS BREWING--A BEWITCHMENT.

WHAT OTHER EXPLANATION COULD THERE BE?

YOU! WHOM WE ENTRUSTED WITH THE POWERS OF THE PANTHEON COMBINED!

DEATH IS THE ONLY PUNISHMENT FOR SUCH BETRAYAL!

SO, LORD ZEUS! YOU ARE NOT OMNIPOTENT AS YOU THOUGHT, ARE YOU? I CAN FEEL YOUR POWER EBBING.

SURRENDER NOW AND BY MY SACRED VOW AS *JUPITER*, TRUE LORD OF ALL THE HEAVENS, I SHALL SEE THAT YOU AND YOUR FELLOW PRETENDERS DIE QUICKLY!

BLOOD SPURTS OF ELDRITCH FIRE EXPLODE FROM THE GAPING WOUNDS OF NEW OLYMPUS, A NEWBORN INFANT RIPPED AND CLEAVED BY THOSE WHO SIRED HER.

HOW LONG CAN SUCH TORTURE BE ENDURED? HOW LONG BEFORE EVEN THE STRONGEST OF SPIRITS CRUMBLES UNDER THE STRAIN?

HOW LONG BEFORE FABLED OLYMPUS, ONCE AND FOR ALL, *DIES?*

AND AS OLYMPUS GOES-- WILL NOT GAEA FOLLOW?

THE EARTH GODDESS SHUDDERS AS HER VERY BREAST HEAVES WITH SPASMS OF PAIN BEYOND IMAGINING.

AND ON THEMYSCIRA WHERE GAEA'S HEART BEATS THE STRONGEST, THE PIERCING THRUSTS OF DIVINITY GONE BERSERK STRIKE LOUDEST OF ALL.

WITH EACH NEW BLOW OF GOD SMITING GOD, THE MAGNIFICENCE OF WHAT WAS ONCE THE JEWEL IN GAEA'S CROWN IS SCARRED THAT MUCH MORE.

< TO SHELTER! WE MUST FIND SHELTER! >

< BUT WHERE? WHERE CAN WE RUN? THE WHOLE ISLAND IS TREMBLING! >

< IT'S ONLY BY SOME *MIRACLE* THAT THEMYSCIRA STILL STANDS! >

YES. A MIRACLE.

A MIRACLE NAMED *HERACLES*.

CURSE ME FOR A FOOL, ATLAS-- WAS THIS YOUR PLOY ALL ALONG?

TO FORCE ME TO BEAR THE WEIGHT OF THIS ISLAND ONCE YOU DISAPPEARED?

SUCH AN OLD TRICK-- BUT EFFECTIVE.

IF THEMYSCIRA IS TO SURVIVE, THEN I MUST REMAIN HERE--A PRISONER.

MAY THE GODS FORGIVE ME...

"IT BEGINS AGAIN. THE WINDS FOR WAR SCREAM AS BANSHEES THROUGHOUT KEYSTONE CITY.

"SEE THE TERROR IN THE EYES OF THE CITIZENRY, AS IF THEY KNOW THAT THIS BE NO ORDINARY GALE.

"AS IF IT WERE APPARENT EVEN TO A BLIND MAN THAT THE GLORY OF OLYMPUS MAY WELL BE RACING TOWARD ITS END."

HERMES, I'M AFRAID VERY FEW OF THOSE PEOPLE OUT THERE GIVE TWO LICKS ABOUT THE FATE OF NEW OLYMPUS.

ALL THEY KNOW IS THAT THEIR WHOLE WORLD'S FALLING DOWN AROUND THEIR EARS.

THIS ISN'T JUST A *TERRITORIAL DISPUTE* BETWEEN THE GREEK AND ROMAN GODS.

YES-- THE SORCERESS MUST HAVE GLEANED MORE POWER SINCE HER ESCAPE THAN I COULD EVER HAVE IMAGINED--

WELL, BUDDY, CIRCE'S GONNA LEARN THAT WE SUPER-HEROES WON'T TAKE THIS LYING DOWN.

C'MON. I'VE ALREADY TOLD THE JUSTICE LEAGUE WE WERE COMING--

NO. THERE IS STILL MUCH I MUST DO HERE. SOMEHOW I MUST FIND A WAY BACK TO NEW OLYMPUS -- TO MY BRETHREN--AND YOUR FRIEND DONNA TROY.

I DON'T BLAME YOU FOR YOUR AMBIVALENCE, WALLACE. AFTER ALL, WHY SHOULD YOU TRUST ONE SO ARROGANT AS TO TAP YOUR POWER WITHOUT YOUR CONSENT?*

BUT YOU MUST BELIEVE ME. THE RECURRING *MADNESS* THAT OVERCAME ME MAKES EVEN ME SUSPICIOUS OF MYSELF.

* IN FLASH #55

THEN... YOU MAY *NOT* HAVE ACTUALLY SEEN DONNA PASSING YOU IN THE CHAOS? MAYBE YOU WERE JUST... *HALLUCINATING*?

AND MAYBE I WAS *NOT*. IS THAT A CHANCE *YOU'RE* WILLING TO TAKE, WALLACE?

MAN, I REALLY HATE THIS. PUTTING MY FAITH IN SO-CALLED GODS BUGS THE BEJEEBERS OUT OF ME.

IF ONLY *SOMEONE* AT TITANS TOWER HAD ACKNOWLEDGED MY SIGNALS, JUST TO BE *SURE*.

HELL, FOR ALL I KNOW, *ALL* THE TITANS COULD BE TRAPPED ON OLYMPUS.

WHILE OVER CHICAGO...

KATAR, DON'T ALL OF THESE STRANGE OCCURRENCES STRIKE YOU AS A LITTLE TOO COINCIDENTAL?

EVEN THE APPEARANCE OF OUR THANAGARIAN GODS-- SO SOON AFTER THE EDWARDS MUSEUM ROBBERY?

YES, SHAYERA, BUT THAT STILL DOESN'T PROVE THAT *WONDER WOMAN* IS RESPONSIBLE.

KATAR, SOMETIMES YOUR FAITH IN HUMANITY IS DOWNRIGHT *INCOMPREHENSIBLE.*

JUST LET ME GET MY HANDS ON THAT AMAZON--JUST FOR A FEW MINUTES. THEN YOU'LL HAVE ALL THE PROOF YOU COULD EVER WANT.

EGYPT...

PROFESSOR! THE SANDSTORM IS ALMOST ON US! BY ALLAH, I'VE NEVER SEEN ONE MOVE *SO FAST!*

WE'LL NEVER OUTRUN IT, ABDUL! TOMMY! BRACE YOURSELVES!

ARE WE IN TROUBLE, DR. NELSON?

I'D SAY THAT WAS A GOOD WORKING THEORY!

BEHOLD, KENT NELSON! THEE WERE THE *TRAITOR FATE...*

FACES...

THOSE ARE *GODS,* TOMMY...

YES, THE SAME GODS YOU *DEBASED* AND HUMILIATED AS DOCTOR FATE!

DID THEE NEVER WONDER HOW YOU *LOST* THAT POWER?

...EGYPTIAN GODS.

YOU?

WE *BLOCKED* YOU FROM RECEIVING IT. WE SEALED THEE TO THAT *MORTAL SEEMING!*

AND WE *GAVE* THE POWER OF DOCTOR FATE TO THY *MATE!* WE KNEW SHE WOULD BE THE EASIER OF YOU TWO TO *DEFEAT!*

SOMEWHERE OVER PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA...

LORRAINE, YOU MUST BE OUT OF YOUR FREAKING MIND. WHAT CAN *FIREHAWK* HOPE TO ACCOMPLISH AGAINST THESE NATURAL DISASTERS?

THAT IS, IF THEY *ARE* NATURAL. I DON'T KNOW...

IT'S AS IF SOMETHING... OR SOMEONE WAS COMPELLING ME TO DO THIS. TO HEAD FOR THE EYE OF THE STORM--

HERE! OVER RONNIE RAYMOND'S PLACE!

OH NO... IT CAN'T BE. I THOUGHT ALL OF THAT WAS OVER-- RONNIE TOLD ME--

HEAR US, LORRAINE REILLY... ATTEND TO OUR PLEAS... YOU ARE NEEDED...

WHO-- WHAT ARE YOU? WHAT'S GOING ON HERE? WHAT'S HAPPENED TO RONNIE?

RONALD RAYMOND... IS GONE...

WHAT!? WHAT THE--

JEEZ--

COME IN, LORRAINE. IT'S ALL RIGHT. EVERYTHING WILL BE ALL RIGHT NOW.

YOU!!

YES, LORRAINE, IT IS I.

FROM THE FURTHEST REACHES OF THE GALAXY-- *FIRESTORM* HAS RETURNED!

"BUT, RONNIE..."

RON HAS ALWAYS BEEN AN INCREDIBLY BRAVE YOUNG MAN, AND I'VE ALWAYS ADMIRED HIM FOR THAT.

HE IS NOW WHERE I HAVE BEEN, OUR STATIONS REVERSED. HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THESE DISASTERS THAT PLAGUE EARTH REQUIRE THE POWERS ONLY AN ELEMENTAL MAY WIELD.

BUT HE KNEW THAT FIRESTORM COULD NOT DO THIS WITHOUT HIS DEAR FRIEND AND ALLY FIREHAWK-- IT WAS *RON* WHO CALLED YOU HERE.

BUT, TIME'S RUNNING OUT. EVEN THE ORISHA'S POWER HAS ITS LIMITS, PARTICULARLY OUTSIDE OF EARTH.

THE ORISHAS ? THOSE WERE THE AFRICAN GODS YOU-- RONNIE TOLD ME ABOUT. I THOUGHT THEY GAVE UP THIER EVIL WAYS --

SO DID I -- BUT THAT WAS BEFORE THE *MADNESS* CAME.

YOU MUST TRUST ME, LORRAINE

WHAT DO YOU SAY ?

I SAY... WE'RE OFF TO AFRICA.

WHILE DEEP WITHIN THE BELLY OF THE ATLANTIC OCEAN...

MAN, IT FEELS LIKE AGES SINCE I'VE BEEN TO THIS PART OF ATLANTIS.

HMM... THE NEREIDS' VOICES HAVE FADED OUT. WONDER IF THAT MEANS THAT I'VE REACHED MY DESTINATION OR--

GREAT WAVES! THAT GEYSER JUST ERUPTED OUT OF NOWHERE!

STRANGE-- I DON'T RECALL ANY ACTIVE VOLCANIC ACTIVITY IN THIS AREA...

YOWW!! AND I SURE AS HECK KNOW THERE ARE NO STORM CLOUDS DOWN HERE!

THAT BOLT CAME FROM OUT THAT WAY--

THE WHOLE CITY'S CAUGHT IN SOME KIND OF UNDERSEA EARTHQUAKE-- YET THERE'S NO SIGN OF EVACUATION. WHAT THE DEVIL ARE THEY WAITING FOR?

THEY ARE WAITING TO *DIE*, ATLANTEAN-- TO GIVE THEMSELVES UP FOR THE GLORY OF A NEW CREATION!

BOW, ATLANTEAN! PROSTRATE YOURSELF BEFORE *KINGU*, MOTHER HUBUR'S SERVANT, KEEPER OF THE BABYLONIAN TABLETS OF DESTINY--

--AND YOUR *MASTER*.

WITHIN THE FOUNDATIONS OF YON DOMED CITY LIES THE THIRD TABLET--UPON WHOSE ACQUISITION THE FULL FORMULA OF *ENUMA ELISH* SHALL BE REVEALED--

-- AND THE WORLD WILL BE BORN ANEW--TO SERVE AND HONOR EARTH'S RIGHTFUL MASTERS.

AND WHAT IS RE-CREATED MUST FIRST BE *DESTROYED*, IS THAT IT?

WELL, KINGU-- YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO GET PAST *ME* FIRST.

FOOL! WHY DO YOU THINK WE WAITED SO LONG?

WE WISHED YOUR FELLOW ATLANTEANS TO BEAR WITNESS TO THE OMNIPOTENCE OF THE BABYLONIAN HIERARCHY--TO SEE THAT THE CHAMPION OF POSEIDON IS NOTHING AGAINST THE POWER OF--

TIAMAT!

BEHOLD, "AQUAMAN," THE FURY OF THE RAGING SEAS PERSONIFIED--AND PREPARE TO BE ITS FIRST *SACRIFICE!*

THE ANTARCTIC...

MAN, HOW I HOPED I WAS WRONG. BUT THE SENSATIONS ARE STRONGER THAN EVER.

BY THROWING THAT THING INTO THE SUN, I THOUGHT I'D BE FREE OF IT, BUT THE ERADICATOR MUST HAVE LEFT SOME RESIDUAL ENERGY BEHIND--SOME KIND OF KRYPTONIAN FALLOUT I DIDN'T ACCOUNT FOR.

I THOUGHT THAT SERPENT'S APPEARANCE MIGHT HAVE HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH THAT BLASTED ERADICATOR--NOW I'M SURE OF IT.

STILL, THAT DOESN'T EXPLAIN WHY IT WOULD SEND *THAT* PARTICULAR--

WHOA--WHAT'S THAT?

"HUNCHED OVER WHERE MY FORTRESS OF SOLITUDE IS BURIED... IT'S PARIAH!

"LORD... THIS IS GETTING MORE NIGHTMARISH BY THE SECOND."

PARIAH... WHAT ARE YOU DOING--

STAY BACK! THERE IS NOTHING I CAN DO! DO YOU HEAR ME? *NOTHING!*

AN ENTIRE CULTURE DYING--EXPLODING INTO SPACE--AND ALL I CAN DO IS *WATCH*...

A WORLD DYING... BEFORE MY EYES...

PARIAH! SNAP OUT OF IT! WHAT THE HELL'S GOING ON--

GREAT SCOTT... YOUR EYES...

"A WORLD DYING..."

"MY WORLD..."

"...KRYPTON..."

YOU WERE THERE... WEREN'T YOU? YOU SAW KRYPTON... DIE...

YES... I I CAN STILL FEEL THE PAIN... AS IF IT WERE HAPPENING ALL OVER AGAIN...

YOU JUST STOOD THERE AND WATCHED KRYPTON BLOW UP-- AND YOU DIDN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT!?

SUPERMAN... YOU *KNOW* I COULDN'T... IT'S PART OF THE CURSE...

PLEASE... DON'T YOU THINK I WOULD HAVE DONE SOMETHING IF I COULD?

LIAR! YOU WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR KRYPTON'S GENOCIDE!

YOU BRING DEATH WHEREVER YOU APPEAR--

--YOU'RE DEATH ITSELF!

BY FATHER'S RAGE! THIS IS WORKING OUT BETTER THAN I PLANNED.

"I'VE PUSHED SUPERMAN OVER THE BRINK OF UNCONTROLLABLE RAGE...

"HOW UNFORTUNATE THAT THE GREEN-CAPED ONE SEEMS PHYSICALLY IMPERVIOUS--IF NOT EMOTIONALLY SO!"

MATCH-HEAD, I DON'T KNOW WHO THE HELL YOU ARE--

EH--!?

-- BUT I DEFINITELY GET THE FEELING YOU'RE NOT ONE OF THE GOOD GUYS.

GOTHAM CITY...

"BY ALL RIGHTS, WONDER WOMAN, ROBIN AND I SHOULD BRING YOU IN. CAN YOU GIVE ME ONE GOOD REASON NOT TO?"

ONLY MY WORD, BATMAN-- AND FAITH IN YOUR OWN INSTINCTS.

INSTINCTS?

YOU KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE FEARED AND MISTRUSTED. FOR YOU, IT IS YOUR MYSTIQUE-- A CLOAK OF DARKNESS YOU WEAR AS A SHIELD.

EVEN I SHIVERED AT THE THOUGHT OF APPROACHING YOU, THOUGH I KNOW YOU TO BE NO MORE THAN A MAN--AN HONEST, DRIVEN MAN.

"I CAN SEE IT IN YOUR EYES."

BUT A DARK KNIGHT'S ARMOR CANNOT BE THE MANTLE OF AN EMISSARY OF PEACE. ONCE TRUST AND FAITH ARE USURPED BY FEAR AND APPREHENSION. THE AMAZON CAUSE IS LOST FOREVER.

AND MY EXISTENCE WILL HAVE MEANT NOTHING.

IF MY WORD IS NOT ENOUGH... PERHAPS HESTIA'S LARIAT OF TRUTH--

THAT WON'T BE NECESSARY, PRINCESS.

NOW, YOU SAID YOU HAD PERTINENT INFORMATION?

YES. IN THIS ENVELOPE. INSP. INDELICATO BELIEVES THAT THE THEMYSCIRAN GOBLET IS STILL IN GOTHAM CITY.

ITS RECOVERY SHOULD HELP LOCATE MY MOTHER AND EXONERATE MY PEOPLE.

THE INSPECTOR IS DOWN BELOW, ANXIOUS TO HELP--

NO, WONDER WOMAN. ROBIN AND I WORK *ALONE*.

LET YOUR GODS AND INSP. INDELICATO TEND TO THEIR OWN BACKYARDS--

--GOTHAM IS *OUR* CITY.

YOU FIGHT WELL, SON OF VULCAN. THOUGH, IF YOU TRULY HAVE THE POWER OF OLYMPUS, YOU LACK THE CUNNING TO WIELD IT EFFECTIVELY.

YOU WERE NEVER A MONUMENT TO CUNNING YOURSELF, HERCULES.

BELIEVE ME, IF I REALLY WANTED TO LET LOOSE WITH MY POWERS, THIS BATTLE WOULD TRULY BE A *SHORT* ONE.

OBVIOUSLY, ONE THRASHING WASN'T ENOUGH TO TEACH YOU HUMILITY EITHER. WELL, THEN--

EH?-- WHAT HAPPENS HERE? I FEEL...STRANGE...

DON'T WORRY, HERCULES. IT'LL ONLY HURT FOR AN INSTANT.

BELIEVE ME-- YOU'LL *THANK* ME FOR IT.

BY THE STARS... HERCULES?

NO.!!

THE ELDRITCH BOLT RACES TOWARD HERCULES AS IF FROM NOWHERE, AND FOR ONE VERY BRIEF INSTANT, THE LION OF OLYMPUS IS ONE WITH THE LIGHTNING, HIS SCREAM IN UNISON WITH THE THUNDER.

AND AS THE SHARD OF LIGHT BLINKS OUT OF EXISTENCE--SO, IT SEEMS, DOES THE SON OF JUPITER.

WHILE ON EARTH...

AMID A CONSTANT BARRAGE OF STORMY FLASHES, A SINGLE BOLT BRIEFLY CASTS A BURNING LIGHT INTO A DESOLATE ALLEYWAY IN NEW YORK CITY.

LEAVING IN ITS WAKE TWO FORMS OF DARKNESS: THE EBONY-DRENCHED NIGHT--

--AND THE DARK MAN KNOWN CENTURIES AGO IN ANCIENT EGYPT AS TETH-ADAM...

...WHOSE TREACHERY LATER EARNED HIM THE NAME KHEM-ADAM--

--BLACK ADAM.

FIREHAWK, BE READY FOR ANYTHING. THIS LOOKS WORSE THAN I EXPECTED.

THREE-QUARTERS OF A MILLION PEOPLE WHO MAY END UP LEADING THE PROCESSION DOWN THE ROAD TO OBLIVION.

BECAUSE OF HIM?

YES. THE LAST TIME I SAW HIM, HE HAD DECIDED TO PEACEFULLY STUDY HUMANITY, TO EARN FOR HIS GODS THE REVERENCE ALL DEITIES CRAVE.

I'M AFRAID AFRICAN GEOGRAPHY WAS NOT MY BEST SUBJECT. WHERE EXACTLY ARE WE?

HARAR, A CITY IN OGADEN. POPULATION ABOUT 750,000.

"WELL, SIR, IT LOOKS LIKE HE DECIDED EARNING WAS NOT AS EXPEDIENT AS TAKING."

O VOICE IN THE VOID, YOU HAVE GIVEN NAME TO CREATION'S *RESURRECTION*, AND THAT NAME IS *SHANGO*!

THROUGH THE POWER OF THE STORM AND THE FIRE SHALL THE PURITY OF MAWU BE REBORN!

HEAR ME, MIGHTY SHANGO! IT IS I, FIRESTORM! THAT VOICE IS NOT FROM THE HOLY WHIRLWIND--IT--

BEGONE, FIREHAIR!

I HAVE HAD ENOUGH OF MORTAL LIES.

BY MY HAMMER SHALL I UNLEASH THE DARKNESS AND RETURN US TO THE VOID!

BY MY HAMMER SHALL THE PATHWAY BE CLEARED FOR *OSHUNMARE'S* RETURN!

HOLY-- FIRESTORM! THESE BLACK DEMONS-- THEY'RE THE ORISHA-NLA YOU TOLD ME ABOUT, AREN'T THEY?

WHAT GOOD ARE MY FIRE-BOLTS GONNA DO AGAINST *THEM*?!

NO-- THOSE AREN'T THE DARK GODS. THEY'RE SOME OTHER FORM OF DARKNESS.

ALL ISN'T AS IT SEEMS HERE. AND THIS STRANGE DARK FIRE-- DRAWING ME IN--

ARRGHH!!

FIRESTORM! WHAT'S HAPPENING TO YOU!? THESE DARK GUYS ARE GOING CRAZY. I CAN'T--

NOW I KNOW WHY THE ORISHAS NEEDED ME HERE. THIS IS ALL A *LIE!*

AND IN SOME COSMICALLY PERVERTED WAY-- *FIRESTORM* IS RESPONSIBLE.

MEANWHILE, DEEP WITHIN THE ICY MOUNTAINS ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF NORWAY...

AT LAST! I THOUGHT THAT PLANE WOULD NEVER GET ME HERE. AND THEN THAT BLASTED CUSTOMS AGENT...

I HATED SNEAKING OUT ON THE LEAGUE LIKE THAT, BUT I COULDN'T BETRAY FATHER'S TRUST.

NOT WHEN MY PEOPLE FEAR THE OUTSIDE WORLD SO MUCH.

I ONLY PRAY I'M NOT TOO--

HUH? WOOD!?

NO! DEAR GOD IN HEAVEN-- NO!!

IT IS BEYOND THE COMPREHENSION OF YOUNG TORA OLAFSDOTTER, ONLY CHILD OF OLAF AND ELIN, RULERS OF THE ICE PEOPLE WHO FOR SO LONG HAVE DWELLED HIDDEN IN THIS REMOTE VALLEY OF ICE --

-- WHICH IS ICE NO LONGER.

TREES - EVERYWHERE, NOTHING BUT TREES.

< FATHER! MOTHER! WHERE ARE YOU? WHAT'S HAPPENED TO OUR VILLAGE!? >

< SOMEBODY-- ANYBODY-- ANSWER ME! >

THEY'RE HERE... SOMEWHERE... I CAN FEEL IT.

MUFFLED VOICES... DESPERATE... LIKE THE VOICES THAT SUMMONED ME HERE.

VOICES... COMING FROM... THE TREES...

...OH... NO...

< --FATHER--? >

NO.!!!

< DEAR GOD IN HEAVEN... NO-O-O-...?

HERETICAL HARLOT! THAT IS TWICE NOW YOU HAVE BLASPHEMED!

YOU WILL DO SO NO LONGER!

ICE! LOOK OUT!!

BY ODIN'S BEARD!

FIRE! HOW--?

LISTEN, TORA, I KNOW YOU DIDN'T WANT ANYONE FOLLOWING YOU, BUT YOU WERE ACTING SO STRANGE--

HEY, WHY AM I APOLOGIZING? I JUST SAVED YOUR LIFE, FOR CRYING OUT LOUD!

ONLY FOR THE MOMENT, WOMAN OF THE GREEN FLAME! NOW YOU SHALL JOIN YOUR SNOW-MANED SISTER ON THE ROAD TO NIFELHEIM!

NOW SHALL YOU BOTH FEEL THE FURY OF THOR!!

LOKI, THOR IS VENTING HIS RAGE UPON TWO WOMEN NEWLY ARRIVED. ONE APPEARS TO BE A NATIVE OF THE VILLAGE. THE OTHER--

DO NOT BOTHER ME WITH THAT OAF'S TROUBLES, BALDUR.

MY ATTENTION MUST REMAIN ON THIS CONJURING. EVER DEEPER MUST I REACH--INTO THE ROOT THE GREAT WORLD TREE YGGDRASIL.

I MUST CAST MY VOICE INTO *JÖTUNHEIM* AND BRING FORTH THE GIANT SURTUR TO SERVE OUR CAUSE. TO BEGIN CREATION'S CYCLE ANEW.

BUT, LOKI, YOU HAVE BEEN AT IT FOR SO LONG--

BY HEL, ASGARDIAN! THINK YOU I DON'T REALIZE THAT!?

SOMETHING IS WRONG! THE DAMNED FIRE-GIANT ANSWERS ME NOT!

SURTUR! ATTEND ME! LOKI COMMANDS THINE ALLEGIANCE AT THIS JUNCTURE OF RAGNAROK AND RENEWAL!

IN THE NAME OF THE NIFELHEIM AND MUSPELLSHEIM, I COMMAND YOU!!

MY LORD! CAST NOT THINE EYES TO JÖTUNHEIM. I AM HERE, IN VALHALLA--IN *VALHALLA*!

WHO IS SURTUR TALKING TO?

DAMN IT, GREEN LANTERN. SNAP OUT OF IT!

IF ANY OF US IN THE *JUSTICE SOCIETY* LET OUR GUARD DOWN, EVEN FOR A MOMENT, THE WHOLE WORLD OUT THERE IS DONE FOR!

I'M NOT SURE, SANDMAN, BUT, FOR A SECOND, I THOUGHT I HEARD SOMEONE CALLING, FROM A GREAT DISTANCE--A FAMILIAR VOICE.

BUT, GREEN LANTERN IS RIGHT, ATOM. THERE IS SOMEONE OUT THERE, CALLING TO THIS FIRE-GIANT.

YEAH, AND IT'S SURE STIRRING UP THIS WALKING BLAST FURNACE INTO A FRENZY.

AS IF BATTLING THIS MONSTER FOR ALL ETERNITY WASN'T TROUBLE ENOUGH.

FREE ME, LORD LOKI! FREE ME FROM THIS NEVER-ENDING HUMILIATION. FREE SURTUR AND I SHALL PERSONALLY REDUCE MIDGARD TO ASHES.

NOT IF WE CAN HELP IT, HOT STUFF. THIS BOUT AIN'T OVER YET.

AMEN, WILDCAT. WE'RE HERE FOR THE DURATION.

AND I'VE PERSONALLY HAD ENOUGH OF THAT CHEERLEADER FROM HELL. THUNDERBOLT--

--SAY, YOU!

FOOLISH WOMEN! HOW LONG DO YOU THINK SUCH PUNY EFFORTS CAN THWART A *NORSE GOD*?

JUST AS LONG AS NECESSARY, YOU HAIRY APE!

FIRE! PLEASE, BE CAREFUL. MY PEOPLE--

BEFORE BEATRIZ DACOSTA HAS TIME TO UNDERSTAND THE MEANING OF TORA OLAFSDOTTER'S WORDS--

--TIME JUST SUDDENLY RUNS OUT.

CURSE YOU, LOKI. THIS WAS MY BATTLE!

A BATTLE THAT WASTES PRECIOUS MOMENTS FOR MEASLY GLORY. THE GIANTS CAN AID US NOT. WE MUST FOLLOW ODIN'S WILL BY OURSELVES.

--AFTER I SHOW YOU HOW *QUICKLY* TWO MORTALS CAN DIE.

"OH GOD, THERE IT GOES AGAIN! THE ERUPTIONS ARE COMING ALMOST EVERY TEN SECONDS!"

BULLDOZER, CAN'T YOU GET ANYTHING FROM THE ENERGY INDICATORS YET?

S.T.A.R. LABS IS CONVINCED THAT THOSE BLASTS MUST HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE STRANGE DISTURBANCES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

I'M WORKING ON IT, CARSON! THIS OSCILLOGRAPH'S TAKEN QUITE A BEATING. I CAN'T VOUCH FOR HOW ACCURATE IT'S GONNA BE.

DAMMIT, IF ONLY I STILL HAD MY BINOCULARS. MAYBE I'D SEE THAT GUY IN THE GREEN CAPE AGAIN. SOMETHING TELLS ME--

"CAL! THE INDICATOR'S RUNNING OFF THE DIAL AGAIN! THERE'S A BIG FLUX OF ENERGY--HEADING THIS WAY!"

AAARRGGHH!!

OKAY, STERNO-HEAD, THAT WAS JUST A WARNING SHOT.

NOW, YOU'D BETTER UNDO WHAT YOU'RE DOING TO SUPERMAN OR I'M *REALLY* GONNA GET ROUGH.

THEN DO IT, MORTAL! WHAT HAVE YOU TO FEAR--

--EXCEPT *FEAR* ITSELF?

WHA--WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME? I DON--

NO... NO...

NO!!!

GREAT SCOTT-- WHAT AM I DOING? THAT SCREAM--

JUST AS I FEARED...

SUPERMAN'S MORAL CODE AGAINST KILLING WAS TOO STRONG. HE'S BROKEN THE GOD'S SPELL.

LITTLE DID PHOBOS REALIZE HOW MUCH I PRAYED FOR HIS SUCCESS.

"SO, STARMAN, THIS IS YOUR GREATEST FEAR, IS IT?

"TO BE STRIPPED OF ALL THAT IS HUMAN WITHIN YOU.

"TO LOSE YOUR FAMILY, YOUR FRIENDS, YOUR IDENTITY.

AND NOW IT IS BEING TORN AWAY FROM YOU. YOU HAVE NO MOTHER, NO FATHER--NO WILLIAM PAYTON--NO HUMANITY AT ALL.

YOU ARE MERELY ENERGY TRAPPED IN A COSTUME.

THAT TRULY SCARES YOU, DOESN'T IT, STARMAN? SCARES YOU TO *DEATH!*

"BY THE DEEPEST PIT OF TARTARUS! WHAT DOES MY CRETINOUS SON THINK HE IS DOING!?

"I SWORE UPON MY HONOR THAT I WOULD NEVER MORE IMPOSE MY DESTRUCTIVE WILL UPON THE EARTH.!"

HOW DARE PHOBOS BREAK THE WORD OF ARES?!

PERHAPS, FATHER, YOUR SON DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT SUCH A PACT APPLIED TO HIM. PERHAPS PHOBOS DOES NOT CONSIDER AN OATH MADE TO A MERE MORTAL BINDING.

HE'S ALREADY FELT MY WRATH ONCE BEFORE. I CANNOT BELIEVE THAT HARMONIA DARED FREE HIM AGAIN.

YOU KNOW HARMONIA, FATHER. IT WAS PROBABLY HER WAY OF TRYING TO REESTABLISH RAPPORT BETWEEN YOU AND BROTHER.

TO WHAT END? A GOD'S WORD IS HIS BOND, HIS AND HIS KIN'S.

PHOBOS' DISHONORABLE ACTIONS TAINT THE FEAST. I CANNOT PARTAKE OF DESTRUCTION'S HARVEST UNDER SUCH CONDITIONS.

I WAS CERTAIN THAT WOULD BE YOUR STANCE, FATHER.

I COUNTED ON IT.

EH? WHAT IN PERDITION ARE YOU BABBLING ABOUT, DAUGHTER?

WHAT!? WHO DARES--!?

I DARE, USURPER! THUS SHALL I METE OUT PUNISHMENT TO ANY AND ALL WHO DARE VIOLATE THE RIGHTFUL REALM OF THE *TRUE* WAR GOD!

WHAT FINAL PRAYERS YOU MAY HAVE, BLACK ONE, ADDRESS TO ME! PRAY THAT *LORD MARS* OF OLYMPUS GRANT YOU A SPEEDY DEATH!

MARS!? BY ZEUS, HOW DID YOU ENTER AREOPAGUS WITHOUT MY--?

TRULY, FATHER, YOU CAN BE SO BLIND. WHO *ELSE* COULD HAVE GRANTED THE ROMAN ACCESS?

HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN THAT THERE CAN BE NO HONOR IN WAR? WHAT SPOILS YOU WOULD NOT CONSUME WILL PROVE MORE THAN ADEQUATE REPAST FOR YOUR DAUGHTER.

WITH EVERY NEW CALCULATED ASSAULT MY POWER GROWS, AND MY GREATEST FEAST SHALL BE *YOUR* DESTRUCTION.

DAMN YOU, PRETENDER! I WAS TALKING TO YOU! NO ONE IGNORES THE GOD OF WAR!

ARROGANT FOOL! WERE YOU TRULY WAR YOUR FACE WOULD BE TOO TERRIBLE TO EVER EXPOSE.

COME, CHARLATAN! IF WAR IS WHAT YOU CRAVE--

WHILE SOMEWHERE OVER THE ATLANTIC OCEAN...

WOW! THE STORMS ARE GETTING WORSE THAN EVER--AS IF THE WHOLE SKY WERE AT WAR WITH ITSELF.

AND THE VOICES IN MY HEAD, THEY'RE PRACTICALLY SCREAMING NOW.

THEN I WAS RIGHT. WHOEVER OR WHATEVER IS CRYING OUT FOR HELP--IT'S COMING FROM BELOW. IT'S EMANATING FROM ATLANTIS.

NICE GOING, KAREN. YOU WERE SO GUNG-HO TO ANSWER THE CALL, DID YOU EVER STOP TO CONSIDER *HOW* YOU WERE GOING TO GET *DOWN* THERE?

BUT, IN THE INSANE MILIEU OF A HOLY CONFLAGRATION, POWER GIRL DOESN'T HAVE TO GO ANYWHERE TO FIND WAR.

WAR WILL FIND HER.

AWAY! AWAY WITH YOU, BLASPHEMER. THE SEA SHALL GIVE BIRTH TO CREATION ANEW! THE DIVINE LABOR IS COME TO TERM AND NONE SHALL STOP IT!

POWER GIRL! HELP ME! I'VE GOT TO GET BACK DOWN TO POSEIDONIS BEFORE THAT MANIAC KINGU FINDS THE LAST TABLET!

KINGU? TABLET? WHAT--?

NO TIME TO EXPLAIN! HURRY! OR THE WHOLE WORLD'S GOING TO BE BURIED IN THE SEA!

AND CECIL HERE IS PART OF THAT? DON'T SAY ANY MORE, AQUAMAN--

-- JUST GET READY TO DIVE.

THE SERPENT-THAT-IS-THE-SEA SCREAMS AS IT FEELS ITSELF VIOLENTLY DESECRATED.

--BUT HOW? THINK, ARTHUR, THINK.

TIAMAT CLAIMS TO BE THE SEA ITSELF. THEREFORE EVERY LIVING THING WITHIN ITS BODY MUST BE BUT SMALL PARTS OF THE WHOLE. INCLUDING YOU. JUST A CELL.

THAT'S, OF COURSE, IF ONE CHOOSES TO *BELIEVE* THAT.

WAIT A SECOND-- THAT MAY BE IT.

OKAY, ARTHUR. THIS ISN'T GOING TO BE EASY. YOU HAVE TO CONCENTRATE...

...CONCENTRATE...

ARTHUR CURRY... I HEAR YOUR CALL... THE BATTLE IS TOO GREAT... CANNOT RESPOND...

THEN *DON'T*, POSEIDON. I WASN'T TALKING TO YOU. YOU GODS HAVE CAUSED ENOUGH TROUBLE!

>WHEW< POWER GIRL'S STRENGTH MAY NOT BE WHAT IT ONCE WAS, BUT SHE CAN STILL PACK A WALLOP.

STILL, SHE WON'T BE ABLE TO KEEP TIAMAT AT BAY FOREVER. I HAVE TO STOP THIS MADNESS--

MY CALL IS DIRECTED TO EVERY SEA DENIZEN WITHIN THE SOUND OF MY TELEPATHIC VOICE.

GO, MY FRIENDS! I KNOW THE WILL OF THE SEA IS STRONG, BUT YOU MUST HEED ME. FOR YOUR OWN SALVATION, HEED ME.

PROVE TO THE SEA THAT THE DAY OF TYRANTS HAS LONG PASSED!

WHAT I ASK OF YOU IS GREAT, BUT YOU MUST BE STRONG.

ATTACK!

ATTACK!

UH-OH. SOMETHING'S HAPPENING. CECIL'S GOING INTO A FIT.

NO! YOU UNGRATEFUL WRETCHES! YOU CANNOT TURN AGAINST ME! I AM THE SEA! I AM LIFE ITSELF!

IT'S TRYING TO SUBMERGE AGAIN. HE MUST BE AFTER AQUAMAN. WHATEVER THAT MERMAN DID, IT'S SURE TICKING THIS PUPPY OFF.

CAN'T LET THE SEA KING'S EFFORTS BE FOR NOTHING--

SORRY, CECIL, THE POOL'S CLOSED--EVERYBODY OUT!

AAARRRRRR

"THE STORM'S POWER IS CENTERING ABOUT US. IF WE ARE TO SUCCEED IN THIS, WE MUST ACT NOW!"

IT HAS TAKEN MOST OF OUR MYSTIC POWERS TO CHANNEL THE RAMPAGING ENERGIES TO THIS TOWER, DR. FATE, BUT EVEN WE CANNOT CONSTRAIN ALL THESE MAGICAL SURGES FOR MORE THAN A FEW MOMENTS.

I AGREE WITH THE SPECTRE. I SAY WE GET STARTED WITHOUT WONDER WOMAN AND TAKE OUR CHANCES--

DO NOT LET YOUR YOUTHFUL IMPETUOSITY CLOUD YOUR JUDGMENT, ZATANNA.

IN A WORLD TOSSED INTO CHAOS, WE MUST STRIVE EVEN HARDER TO FOLLOW THE RULES OF ORDER.

ORDER--DON'T SPEAK TO ME OF ORDER, PHANTOM STRANGER. HAD I MY WAY, I WOULD PERSONALLY END THIS CIRCE THREAT RIGHT NOW.

AFTER ALL, WE ONLY HAVE WONDER WOMAN'S WORD ABOUT CIRCE'S INVINCIBILITY.

IT'S TRUE, STRANGER. YOU DO SEEM TO PLACE A GREAT DEAL OF FAITH ON THE WORD OF A FUGITIVE.

MADAME, THAT SORCERESS CONTROLS GODS. I DO NOT NEED A FUGITIVE'S WORD TO TELL ME THAT TAKES *GREAT* POWER.

UH, GUYS, CAN WE ALL REMEMBER *WHY* WE'RE HERE, PLEASE?

NONE OF THIS IS GOING TO MATTER ONE BIT IF WE DON'T DO SOMETHING ABOUT KEEPING MOTHER EARTH IN ONE PIECE.

OUR APOLOGIES, DR. FATE. I GUESS NONE OF US IS VERY GOOD AT WAITING--

THEN YOU NEED WAIT NO LONGER, MADAME XANADU--

I'M SORRY FOR THE DELAY, BUT EVEN IN MARKOVIA, PRINCE BRION HAD HEARD ABOUT THE ACCUSATIONS LEVELED AT ME AND MY SISTERS.

RIGHT NOW, GEO-FORCE, WE HAVE ALL THE MAGICIANS WE NEED. YOU'RE HERE BECAUSE OF YOUR POWER TO CONTROL THE EARTH'S *BODY*.

PRINCESS DIANA WAS *BORN* OF EARTH. SHE IS CONNECTED TO ITS *SOUL*.

I'M SORRY, PRINCESS, BUT YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT A SOVEREIGN'S FIRST CONCERN IS THE WELFARE OF HIS PEOPLE...

YOU CAN TAKE THE LASSO OFF ME NOW. THE TRUTH IS NOW ALL TOO CLEAR.

BUT, WHAT DO YOU WANT OF *ME*? I'M NOT EXACTLY A MAGICIAN.

"WITH OUR HELP, BODY AND SOUL WILL MERGE AND THE EARTH SHALL BE MADE STRONG AGAIN."

"MERGE"? HMMM... NOW, THAT SOUNDS *VERY* INTERESTING.

"< AH HA. THE FOOLS ARE PREPARING TO USE THEIR PUNY MAGIC AGAINST ME. JUST AS I KNEW THEY WOULD. >

"< THIS IS ALL SO PERFECT. >"

< KNOWING THOSE WOULD-BE MERLINS, THEY'RE RIGHT NOW FUNNELLING A GREAT AMOUNT OF ENERGY FROM THE HELLFIRE WEB TO FUEL THEIR DESPERATE GAMBIT. >

< WHAT THEY DON'T KNOW IS THAT IT IS HECATE'S WEB THAT HAS CAUGHT *THEM*. >

< WITH THE POWER OF ALL THE GODLY PANTHEONS TO DRAW FROM, IT IS I WHO SHALL SUCK OUT THE ENERGY FROM *THEM*--? >

<--USING THAT STUPID AMAZON PRINCESS AS MY *SIPHON*. >

< AND BY THE TIME DIANA, THE MAGICIANS--OR THE GODS--REALIZE WHAT IS HAPPENING, ALL THAT DELICIOUS MAGIC WILL BE *MINE*.! >

"OKAY, GUYS, IT'S NOW OR NEVER. DIANA, IT'S YOUR SHOW."

MOST GLORIOUS GAEA, THOUGH YOU BE KNOWN BY DIFFERENT NAMES, STILL YOU ARE MOTHER EARTH TO US ALL AND WE YOUR CHILDREN RALLY TO YOU.

WE WHO HAVE SUCKLED FROM YOUR BOUNTIFUL BREAST DO NOW TEND TO YOU IN YOUR ILLNESS.

THROUGH YOUR SON, BRION, SHALL YOUR FLESH BE HEALED AND YOUR SINEW REFORMED.

THROUGH THY DAUGHTER, DIANA, SHALL YOUR SPIRIT BE FORTIFIED WITH HOPE AND YOUR LOVE BE REAFFIRMED.

BY THE POWER GATHERED HERE BY YOUR FAITHFUL SHALL YOU BE STRENGTHENED ANEW--

--SO THAT YOU MAY WEATHER THE FURY OF THE COMING STORM.

MY GOD, I FEEL LIKE I'M GOING TO EXPLODE. I'VE NEVER USED THIS MUCH POWER BEFORE. GOTTA... HOLD ON...

< THAT'S IT, DIANA. DRAW ON ALL THAT POWER. THE MORE YOU SOW, THE MORE I SHALL REAP. >

< GODS UNITED ON HELLFIRE'S ALTAR. ATTEND YOU NOW TO THE POWER OF CIRCE. >

< SUBMIT TO THE WILL OF HECATE! >

< BY THE POWERS OF YOUR TOTEMS BOUND TO MY SERVICE, I CALL UPON YOU TO--TO..>

< YES THAT'S IT. FEED ME! >

< MISTRESS? WHAT'S WRONG? >

< WHAT IS IT? >

< I-I DON'T KNOW... SOMETHING'S WRONG... THE SPELL... IT'S NOT WORKING! >

< NO! THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE! >

"< CIRCE! >"

"< DIANA! >"

I'M LOSING HER! C'MON, PRINCESS, YOU CAN'T QUIT NOW! I CAN FEEL IT WORKING!

C'MON, DIANA, WE CAN'T DO THIS WITHOUT YOU!

GEO-FORCE IS RIGHT, PRINCESS. DON'T YOU SEE? IT WAS A TRAP! WE WERE PLAYING RIGHT INTO CIRCE'S HANDS!

BUT THE GAME RULES HAVE BEEN CHANGED! IF WE ARE TO SUCCEED, IT MUST BE NOW!

C'MON, PRINCESS. BODY AND SOUL. THAT'S WHAT THE DOCTOR PRESCRIBED.

DON'T TELL ME... GAEA'S DAUGHTER IS NOTHING... BUT A FAILURE!

NO.!!!

NO.!!!

HEAR ME, O GREAT SHANGO.

GAZE INTO THE SHADOWS OF THE BLACK FIRE AND THE *TRUTH* SHALL BE REVEALED TO YOU!

YOUR LIES SHALL NOT FOOL ME, FIREHAIR. THERE IS NOTHING IN THE BLACK FIRE, NOTHING SAVE--

BY OGUN'S GOLDEN CHAIN! WHAT IS THAT!?

FIRESTORM--SNAP OUT OF IT! WHATEVER THE HELL YOU'RE DOING, THESE CREATURES ARE JUST GETTING MEANER!

LORRAINE, THIS IS OUR CHANCE. SHANGO IS CONFUSED. KEEP PUNCHING HOLES INTO THE SHADOW DEMONS.

I'M GOING IN.'

IN!? ARE YOU CRAZY!?

FIRESTORM.!!

YOU *ARE* IN HERE, AREN'T YOU? COME ON, DEMON! THE RUSE IS OVER.'

WHAT THE--? *CAPTAIN ATOM?*

ONLY HIS *DARKNESS*, FIRESTORM. AS HE CREATED *HIS* REALITY, SO, WITH HIS OWN POWERS, DID I CREATE THIS ONE.

HE THOUGHT HE COULD DESTROY ME--ME! BUT HIS DARKNESS SUSTAINS ME. DARKNESS ALWAYS DOES.

THEN LET'S BE *DONE* WITH DARKNESS, DEMON.

" IT'S TIME WE CAST YOU INTO THE LIGHT!"

WHAT MANNER OF INSANITY IS THIS?

SURPRISE, STORM GOD. I MUST SAY I WAS SOMEWHAT DISAPPOINTED WITH HOW EASILY YOU WERE DECEIVED. AT LEAST I KNEW THAT THE WITCH CIRCE WAS BEHIND HIS.

I FELT HER CONJURING YOU UP HERE-- STIRRING UP THE DARK DEMONS INSIDE YOU. THERE WAS NO WAY I COULD RESIST TAPPING INTO THAT.

BUT I COULDN'T VERY WELL TAKE A CHANCE ON YOUR INTERFERING --SO I...LET YOU SEE WHAT I WANTED YOU TO SEE--WHAT THE WITCH WANTED YOU TO SEE.

UNFORTUNATELY-- SOMETHING-- HAPPENED. I'M STILL NOT SURE WHAT. AT FIRST I THOUGHT IT WAS CAPTAIN ATOM, BUT I DOUBT NOW EVEN HE KNEW.*

"STILL IT WAS A GOOD DAY'S WORK AND THERE IS STILL ENOUGH NEGATIVE FORCE HERE TO LAST ME--UNTIL NEXT TIME."

"I HAVE YOU TO PARTIALLY THANK FOR THAT...LORD SHANGO."

YOU'RE PRETTY COCKY FOR A GUY WHO'S ABOUT TO GET HIS BUTT KICKED STRAIGHT TO HELL.

FIRESTORM--I CAN ALWAYS COUNT ON YOUR RAGE TO GIVE ME JUST THAT EXTRA BOOST I NEED--

--TO DO THIS!

MEANWHILE, ON NEW OLYMPUS, THE TIDE OF THE HOLY WAR BEGINS TO TURN...

HAH! SO, JUPITER, LORD ZEUS IS NOT THE EASY PREY YOU HAD ASSUMED HIM TO BE!

HEPHAESTUS! MORE BOLTS! I WILL BLAST THIS PRETENDER HIGHFATHER BACK INTO THE MIRE WHENCE HE SPRUNG.

I THINK NOT, LORD ZEUS.

ZEUS!!

GREAT GAEA, NO!!

BY MY CROWN, WHAT MANNER OF MADNESS IS THIS!?

"FIRST, HERCULES--NOW ZEUS?

"CURSE ME IF I CAN MAKE ANY SENSE OF IT!"

TO

BRION... I CAN FEEL GAEA STRENGTHENING. JUST A LITTLE... LONGER... PLEASE...

DON'T WORRY... 'BOUT ME... DIANA... I'M SEEING THIS TO THE END... ONE WAY... OR ANOTHER... TOGETHER.

EH? WHAT IS HAPPENING? THERE IS SOMETHING WRONG HERE.

GAEA -- BY THE GODS -- I CAN HEAR GAEA.

CAL! GET A LOOK AT THIS. THE SEISMOGRAPHER IS DIPPING BACK DOWN TO NORMAL LEVELS. ALL SENSORS ARE OUTTA THE RED.

IT'S THE CRAZIEST THING I EVER SAW.

MAYBE SO, BULLDOZER, BUT I SUGGEST YOU BRACE YOURSELF ANYWAY.

"I THINK WE'RE IN FOR ONE MORE MONSTER OF AN EARTHQUAKE."

B-THOOM!

"GREAT WAVES! THE OCEAN FLOOR HAS STOPPED TREMBLING. POSEIDONIS IS STEADYING!"

IT MUST HAVE BEEN ARTHUR OF ATLANTIS.

IMPOSSIBLE, EVEN AQUAMAN CAN'T CONTROL THE SEABED ITSELF.

THEN WHO -- OR WHAT --?

ALL RIGHT, KINGU, IT'S JUST YOU AND ME NOW.

NO... THE TABLET... THE LAST TABLET OF DESTINY... MUST...

WHOA--KINGU LOOKS LIKE HE'S IN *SHOCK*. MAYBE THE ATTACK ON TIAMAT HAS AFFECTED HIM--

...A LIE... IT HAS ALL BEEN...A LIE...

HMMM-- I'M NOT SURE I LIKE THE SOUND OF THIS...

< THE GODS BE DAMNED!! SOMEONE HAS TAMPERED WITH THE HOLY RELICS!>

< THE HELLFIRE SPELL-- IT'S BEING PERVERTED!>

< IT CAN'T BE! NOT AFTER ALL MY CAREFUL, PAINSTAKING PREPARATIONS. HECATE'S SCHEME CAN'T BE THWARTED. IT CAN'T!>

< IT *CAN'T*.!!>

ONCE AGAIN, TORRENTS OF UNIMAGINABLE COSMIC ENERGY ERUPT FROM THE TOWER OF THE SORCERESS. THE AMAZON RAIN FOREST IN SOUTH AMERICA IS BLEACHED WHITE AMID THE HARSH GLARE OF GODLY POWER UNLEASHED.

ONCE MORE THE POWER OF THE RELICS, ALTERED BY BOTH THE MIGHT OF DESPERATE MAGICIANS AND THE CAPRICIOUSNESS OF HAPPENSTANCE, POURS FORTH OVER THE TORTURED EARTH.

BUT THIS TIME, THE POWER OF THE RELICS NO LONGER TORTURES AND RENDS GAEA. BUT INSTEAD ENVELOPS HER LIKE A SECOND SKIN.

--A WARM OVERCOAT TO GUARD HER FROM THE STORM--

--A SUIT OF ARMOR SHE WILL NEED TO CONTINUE THE HOLY WAR.

BUT EVEN AS THE BRIDLE HAS BEEN PLACED UPON EARTH'S TEMPEST, THE FURY OF THE SKIES OVER DARK AREOPAGUS RAGES MORE INDOMITABLY THAN EVER.

UNDER SUCH FEROCITY, HOW MUCH LONGER CAN EVEN THE MOUNTAIN OF ARES STAND?

FATHER BATTLES HIS ROMAN TWIN WITH A RARE PASSION.

THE HEAT OF THE BATTLE HAS SET HIS WILL ON FIRE. WITH EVERY DESTRUCTIVE BLOW HE GROWS EVER STRONGER.

ON HIS HOME GROUND, IN A NORMAL TIME, LORD ARES IS NIGH INVINCIBLE.

OF COURSE, THESE ARE FAR FROM NORMAL TIMES.

NOW IS THE TIME OF PROMETHEAN *DISCORD*--

--THE DAWN OF *ERIS'* REIGN.

TROIA-- I DON'T KNOW IF YOU CAN HEAR ME--BUT YOU HAVE TO BELIEVE THAT I HATE LEAVING YOU IN THE MIDDLE OF ALL THIS.

BUT, TIME IS QUICKLY RUNNING OUT AND THERE IS STILL SO MUCH I--WE BOTH-- HAVE TO DO.

FORGIVE ME.

BY JUPITER, HALCIBER FILIUS! WHAT MADNESS HAS OVERTAKEN YOU? WHOSE SIDE BE YOU ON?

OR DO YOU ALLY YOURSELF TO NO ONE'S CAUSE BUT YOUR OWN?

SORRY, LORD NEPTUNE, BUT YOU WOULD NOT UNDERSTAND RIGHT NOW.

MAYBE TOMORROW...

HALCIBER FILIUS GIVES ONLY THE FAINTEST HINT OF A SMILE AND CLOAKS HIMSELF WITH THE LIGHTNING.

AND THAT IS THE LAST NEPTUNE SEES OF THE SON OF VULCAN.

WHILE SOMEWHERE DEEP WITHIN THE HEART OF THE GREAT SEA GOD, A HEAVINESS IS BEING LIFTED AWAY...

?

THE SERPENT'S TURNING INTO WATER, FUNNELLING ITSELF BACK INTO THE OCEAN.

BOY, I HOPE THIS ISN'T SOMETHING BAD HAPPENING.

AQUAMAN! IS EVERYTHING OKAY? THE SERPENT--

TIAMAT AND KINGU HAVE BOTH DISAPPEARED. POSEIDON--ALL OF ATLANTIS--IS SAFE, FOR NOW.

WHAT ON EARTH DID YOU DO? IT ALL ENDED SO... ABRUPTLY.

LOOK AT THE SKY. EVERYTHING IS BACK TO NORMAL.

YOU THINK THAT SERPENT'S BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL OF THIS INSANITY?

NO. AND JUDGING FROM KINGU'S EXPRESSION BEFORE HE DISAPPEARED, I DOUBT EVEN HE KNEW. AND THAT REALLY SCARES ME.

I HAVE A FEELING THAT WHATEVER HAPPENS NEXT MAY BE A LOT BIGGER THAN JUST A BUNCH OF GODS ARGUING ABOUT REWRITING GENESIS.

BIGGER THAN--? DO YOU KNOW HOW CRAZY THAT SOUNDS?

TELL ME ABOUT IT.

STARMAN, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

YEAH, FINE--ALTHOUGH I'D RATHER NOT TALK ABOUT IT IF YOU DON'T MIND.

I JUST WANT TO GET A PIECE OF OL' HATCHET-FACE THERE.

NO, STAY BACK! I COMMAND YOU!

SOMETHING'S WRONG! DAMN THAT WITCH! I KNEW--

PHOBOS! LOOK OUT!

NOOOO!!!

HUH? HE'S GONE!

DID HE REALLY FALL, OR WAS THIS JUST ANOTHER ONE OF HIS TRICKS--A MEANS OF ESCAPE?

NO SIGN OF HIM ANYWHERE. NOTHING.

NOT EVEN AN ECHO.

WHILE SOMEWHERE ON THE PERIPHERY OF NORWAY...

YO, GROUP. C'MON! LET'S GET A MOVE ON. DON'T YOU KNOW HOW MUCH FUEL THIS BABY EATS UP?

YOU HEARD MY ORDERS, BEETLE. JUST KEEP SCANNING FIVE MINUTES MORE FOR ANY SIGNS OF THOSE ALLEGED NORSE GODS.

SUIT YOURSELF, J'ONN. BUT I'VE ALREADY COVERED THESE MOUNTAINS AND FJORDS THREE TIMES. THOSE GODS JUST PLAIN DISAPPEARED.*

BUT, WHY? THEY HAD US IN THEIR POWER. WHAT WAS THEIR PURPOSE?

FLASH, YOU SAID THE ROMAN GOD MERCURY DISAPPEARED DURING YOUR BATTLE AS WELL?

MAYBE ICE KNOWS MORE ABOUT ALL OF THIS THAN SHE'S TOLD US.

YEAH. EVEN HERMES SEEMED BOWLED OVER BY THAT.

YOU TAKE THAT BACK, TIN MAN! THAT'S MY WOMAN YOU'RE TALKIN' ABOUT... THEY'RE RESPONSIBLE. SOUNDS PRETTY FISHY IF YOU ASK ME.

OH, HUSH, GUY. AND AS FOR YOU, RED, I KNOW IT SEEMS STRANGE THAT SHE WOULDN'T WANT US TO MEET HER PARENTS...

BUT IT'S JUST LIKE SHE SAID...

"SHE HAD TO TAKE CARE OF SOME PERSONAL BUSINESS."

< ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE ALL RIGHT, FATHER? I ASSURE YOU, MY FRIENDS ONLY WANT TO HELP. >

< I'M SURE THEY DO, TORA, BUT CENTURIES OF MISBELIEF ARE HARD TO WIPE FROM THE SNOW. >

< AND WHEN GODS, TOO, TURN AGAINST YOU, WHEN EVEN DEITIES CAN NO LONGER BE TRUSTED-- WELL, IT IS BEST THIS WAY. >

< AND WHAT OF YOU, DEAR DAUGHTER? HAS THE HOT WORLD OUTSIDE BEEN THE WONDERLAND YOU HOPED FOR? >

< SOMETIMES, SOMETIMES NOT. BUT, FATHER, I WAS RIGHT TO GO. I AM LEARNING SO MUCH. >

< THEN... YOU DO NOT *MISS* US? >

< OH, FATHER, *YES. YES!* MORE THAN YOU CAN EVER IMAGINE. ONE DAY, UNDER HAPPIER CIRCUMSTANCES, I'LL COME VISIT YOU AND MOTHER-- I PROMISE. >

< ON THAT DAY, I SHALL DECLARE A HOLIDAY. THERE WILL BE A GREAT FEAST... WE ALL... >

< OH, TORA... PLEASE... BE CAREFUL OUT THERE... >

AFRICA...

FIRESTORM... DR. STEIN... ARE YOU--?

WHAT HAPPENED? WHERE'S SHANGO? WHAT HAPPENED TO SHADOWSTORM?

GONE, BOTH OF THEM. ALL I SAW AFTER THE BLACK FLASH WAS YOU LYING HERE. I WAS AFRAID.

UP IN THE SKY... SOME SORT OF... BIRD?

LOUD, ISN'T SHE?

HELLO! MY NAME IS VAL-- UM--SILVER SWAN! I'VE COME TO HELP!

THE SILVER SWAN? I'VE HEARD OF HER. SHE BATTLED WONDER WOMAN ONCE.

I DON'T KNOW WHETHER WE SHOULD TRUST HER, DR. STEIN.

AT THIS POINT, LORRAINE, BEGGARS CAN'T AFFORD TO BE CHOOSERS. I HAVE A FEELING WE'RE GOING TO NEED ALL THE HELP WE CAN GET.

WASHINGTON, D.C...

"THIS IS ALL FEELING WEIRDER BY THE SECOND. MY WHOLE BODY'S TINGLING LIKE IT'S BEING JUICED WITH ELECTRICITY.

I HATE IT WHEN THIS HAPPENS.

IT'S CONNECTED TO AZURE AND HUITZILOPOCHTLI I KNOW IT. THAT LAST BATTLE WAS JUST A PRELIMINARY BOUT TO SOME BIGGER DEADLY GAME.*

BLAST IT, DON. WHERE'S HAWK NOW THAT I NEED HIM?

WHILE IN AN INTERDIMENSIONAL TOWER STRADDLING NEW YORK CITY AND SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS, THE ROAR OF THE RAMPAGING LION HAS FINALLY SURRENDERED TO THE SILENCE OF THE LAMB.

A TRIUMPH OF PEACE OVER CHAOS--A VICTORY HARD WON.

BUT, AT WHAT PRICE?

IS IT OVER?... I SURE HOPE SO...

BECAUSE I THINK I'M GOING TO BE... VERY, VERY SICK.

DON'T WORRY, PRINCE BRION. AS GAEA'S STRENGTH IS REPLENISHED SO SHALL YOURS BE.

YES, BUT THIS SPELL WON'T HOLD FOR LONG. IF WE WANT TO END THIS NIGHTMARE, WE HAVE TO FIGURE OUT CIRCE'S MASTER PLAN.

HOW ABOUT IT, PRINCESS? YOU SEEM TO HAVE SOME KIND OF PSYCHIC LINK TO THAT SORCERESS. WHY DON'T YOU TELL US?

IF ONLY IT WERE THAT SIMPLE, ZATANNA. BUT YOU MUST BELIEVE THAT THE LINK IS NEITHER CONTROL LABLE NOR DESIRABLE ON MY PART.

BUT, IT IS THERE. I SAW IT IN YOUR EYES EARLIER. YOU AND CIRCE WERE EXPERIENCING SOMETHING EMPATHICALLY, WEREN'T YOU?

YES... SOMETHING THAT ANGERED HER... I'M NOT SURE...

PLEASE, I MUST FIND LORD HERMES. I'VE PUT OFF OUR CONFRONTATION FOR TOO LONG NOW.

WAIT! DIANA, YOU CAN'T LEAVE NOW. WHAT ABOUT CIRCE? WHA--

LET HER GO, DR. FATE.

THANKS TO THE PRINCESS WE'VE ALREADY DONE MORE TO THWART CIRCE THAN WE HAD DARED HOPE FOR.

I SUGGEST WE TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS ELEMENT OF SURPRISE WHILE WE STILL HAVE THE CHANCE.

YES, YOU'RE RIGHT. I JUST HOPE THAT HERMES GUY CAN GIVE DIANA THE ANSWERS SHE'S LOOKING FOR.

"THAT LADY LOOKS LIKE SHE'S ABOUT HAD IT UP TO HERE WITH BEING A PAWN FOR THE GODS."

SO THAT'S IT? WHEN WONDER WOMAN WOULDN'T LET YOU JOIN HER, YOU FIGURED I'D PROVE YOURSELF *HERE*? IN *AFRICA*?

MY EX-BOYFRIEND HAD A CHEMICAL PLANT NEAR HERE, BEFORE IT WAS SHUT DOWN.

YES. THE ARMBRUSTER CHEMICAL LEAK. I REMEMBER THAT. *H.C.* ARMBRUSTER WAS YOUR--?

LONG AGO. BEFORE I MET HIM. WHEN I HEARD ABOUT THE TROUBLE HERE... WELL, IT SEEMED ALMOST LIKE... FATE, Y'KNOW?

I GUESS I'M TOO LATE, HUH?

PLEASE--ISN'T THERE *SOMEPLACE* WHERE A SUPER-HERO NOVICE CAN... LEARN THE TRADE, AS IT WERE?

HMM. I THINK I MIGHT KNOW OF A PLACE. I CAN'T GUARANTEE ANYTHING, THOUGH.

VAL... THAT *IS* YOUR NAME, RIGHT? YOU DO REALIZE WHAT A DANGEROUS UNDERTAKING THIS WILL BE?

FIREHAWK, I'VE BEEN A BATTERED LOVER, A DEFORMED FREAK, AND A MADMAN'S SECRET WEAPON. BELIEVE ME, I'D CONSIDER ANYTHING AN *IMPROVEMENT.*

ALL RIGHT, THEN. FIRESTORM, YOU COMING?

NO. THERE ARE STILL A LOT OF UNANSWERED QUESTIONS I HAVE TO INVESTIGATE WHICH I'D BEST DO ALONE. YOU GO AHEAD. THERE'S NOTHING MORE YOU CAN DO HERE.

WELL, OKAY. BUT I'LL BE BACK.

I'LL JUST DROP VAL OVER AT THE *IMHS* BUILDING BACK IN PITTSBURGH--

"*IMHS*"?

"*THE INSTITUTE FOR META-HUMAN STUDIES.*"

SHIMHS

SO... THAT MUST BE ONE OF THE SO-CALLED *META-HUMANS.*

HE DOESN'T LOOK SO IMPRESSIVE TO ME.

STILL, HE AND HIS KIND SHOULD BE ADEQUATE FOR MY PURPOSE.

AFTER ALL, WHAT MISSION *BLACK ADAM* HAS IN STORE FOR THEM SHOULD BE RIGHT UP THEIR ALLEY, AS THEY SAY.

FOR THEM IT SHALL BE *SHEER SUICIDE.*

THE WAR CONTINUES...

...IN JUSTICE LEAGUE EUROPE #31, BATMAN #470, HAWKWORLD #16, ANIMAL MAN #40, WONDER WOMAN #60, SUICIDE SQUAD #58 & **WAR OF THE GODS #3!**

Also in this **SPECIAL ISSUE:**
Themyscira: Paradise Lost
A photo essay by Ronnie Sarasky
THE WAR OF THE GODS

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★ 5-DIGIT 02202
DC
GEORGE PEREZ, JILL THOMPSON, RICK BRYANT,
JOHN COSTANZA, NANSI HOOLAHAN,
TOM PEYER & KAREN BERGER-ARCHITECTS
WONDER WOMAN CREATED BY WILLIAM MOULTON MARSTON

TO AVENGE AN AMAZON

KNOCK KNOCK

DAMN

GO AWAY!

INSPECTOR INDELICATO!?

INSHPECTOR INDE'ICATO'S DEAD! YOU CAN JUS' SLIP DE FLO'ERS UN'ER DE DOOR!

HA'N'T YOU 'ULTURES PICKED MY BONES ENUFF-FF?

PLEASE, INSPECTOR. I'M NOT A REPORTER. IT'S *JULIA KAPATELIS*. REMEMBER ME?

701

KNOK KNOK

I WAS A FRIEND OF DIANA'S.

PROFESHER? 'OL' ON A SEC--

GOTTA... 'MEMBER... DE COM'INATION...

INSPECTOR... I APOLOGIZE FOR THE INTRUSION. I DIDN'T MEAN TO IMPOSE ON YOUR PRIVATE GRIEF.

IT'S JUST THAT I WANTED TO THANK YOU FOR WHAT YOU DID FOR MY DAUGHTER VANESSA.

I-I TRIED TO PHONE--

I DIDH- CONNECTED IT... GAY ME A HEADACHE. IT'S INNA TOILET...

YOU POOR MAN. IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN DO?

>COUGHK LISTEN... PROFESSOR. I'M GLAD THAT I COULD HELP YOUR DAUGHTER. AT LEAST I DIDN'T BOTCH UP *EVERYTHING*.

PLEASE, INSPECTOR, YOU CAN'T CONTINUE ADMONISHING YOURSELF--

BUT I SHOULDA CALLED 'ER. I SHOULDA TOLD DIANA ABOUT DE CHEETAH. MAYBE IT MIGHTA HELPED... MIGHTA SAVED 'ER...

"...STUPID, I KNOW IT. IT WASN'T LIKE SHE WAS MY *PARTNER* OR ANYTHING-- NOT LIKE SHANDS -- NOT LIKE A *REAL* COP... STUPID...

"...AND, FOR SOME STRANGE-- STUPID-- REASON, I FIGGERED I HAD A *PERSONAL* GRUDGE AGAINST THIS CHEETAH WITCH.

"STUPID."

OKAY, DR. MINERVA. WE'LL PLAY THIS ANY WAY YOU LIKE. ALL I CARE ABOUT IS THE GIRL. I JUST WANT TO SEE HER.

SHUT UP! I CALL THE SHOTS AROUND HERE. I HAVE NO TIME FOR GAMES.

I'M RISKING MY LIFE BY STAYING IN ONE PLACE FOR SO LONG.

HELP ME!! IS SOMEBODY OUT THERE!? HELP!!

DON'T EVEN THINK IT, INSPECTOR. YOU'D BE DEAD BEFORE YOU EVER GOT TO THE DOOR.

OKAY, DOC. WHATEVER YOU SAY. JUST TELL ME WHAT YOU WANT.

I WANT YOU TO GIVE WONDER WOMAN SOME INFORMATION ABOUT *CIRCE*.

AND WHY SHOULD YOU WANT TO HELP THE PRINCESS? YOU'RE THE ONE WHO MURDERED HER FROM WHAT I HEARD FRIENDS HELLENE AND PHILIPPUS IN GOTHAM CITY.

WHO YOU TRYIN' TO SLICK? THIS IS PART OF CIRCE'S MASTER PLAN, AIN'T IT? AND YOU'RE IN ON IT.

FOOL! IF I WERE, I'D BE GUZZLING YOUR BLOOD ALREADY.

I'M NOT DOING THIS FOR DIANA, OR ANYONE ELSE BUT *ME*. IF I'M EVER TO BE FREE OF THAT WITCH, CIRCE HAS TO *DIE*.

NOW SHUT UP AND LISTEN...

" 'IT STARTED WHEN I SAW A SMALL BIRD PERCHED ON MY CELL WINDOW. AT FIRST IT LOOKED LIKE THE PRINCESS' MESSENGER PIGEON, *TINY ONE*.

" 'HE SPOKE TO ME IN GREEK AND CALLED HIMSELF *MIKOS*--

" 'BUT THEN IT BEGAN TO CHANGE. IT GREW LARGER. FIRST INTO A HAWK-- THEN TO SOME STRANGE HYBRID OF BIRD AND HUMAN-- AND FINALLY INTO A *MAN*.

" '--AND HE'D COME TO SET ME FREE.

'I WAS SURE IT WAS SOME DRUG-INDUCED PSYCHOSIS-- YOU GET A LOT OF THAT IN ARKHAM ASYLUM--

" '-- PROBABLY JUST SOME ORDERLY TRYING TO FORCE FEED ME MY MEDICATION AGAIN. I FOUGHT HIM, JUIST AS I ALWAYS DID--

" '-- BUT HE WAS SO STRONG.

" ' HE SHOVED THIS-- POTION-- DOWN MY THROAT--

" '-- AND EVERYTHING WENT BLOOD RED.

" 'I COULD FEEL MY HEART RACING LIKE A THOROUGHBRED. THUMPING, THUMPING LIKE THE JUNGLE DRUMS. IT ALL FELT SO FAMILIAR.

" 'FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MONTHS, I FELT ALIVE AGAIN. STRONG AGAIN. THE ATROPHY IN MY LEGS BEGAN TO GIVE WAY TO COILED IRON MUSCLE, READY TO SPRING.

" 'GOD, THE ORIGINAL CEREMONY USED TO TAKE HOURS, NOW THE TRANSFORMATON WAS TAKING LESS THAN A MINUTE.

" 'BUT THIS TIME THERE WAS NO NEED FOR CEREMONIAL COSTUMING AND MAKEUP. THE CHEETAH'S SKIN HAD BECOME FUSED WITH MY OWN.

" 'JEKYLL AND HYDE WERE NOW ONE AND THE SAME.

" 'FROM THAT NIGHT FORTH, THE CHEETAH WAS BORN ANEW.

" 'AND SHE WAS HUNGRY.'

"YEAH, WHEN THE REAL ORDERLIES CHARGED IN-- THE POOR SAPS NEVER HAD A CHANCE."

MMMMMMRRRROWR

MIKOS... HE'S CIRCE'S AIDE-DE-CAMP. THEN IT WAS SHE WHO UNLEASHED THE CHEETAH.

YEAH, MIKOS HAD KILLED TINY ONE SOME TIME AFTER YOU SAW THE BIRD IN TURKEY* HE'S BEEN SPYIN' CIRCE EVER SINCE.

BUT, THAT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE---

*WONDER WOMAN NO. 41 -- KAREN AND TOM

WAIT 'TIL I FINISH, PERFESH-- UHH-- PROFESSOR.

YEAH, ALL THE PAIN 'N' SUFFERIN' WAS OVER FOR DR. MINERVA-- ONLY NOW SHE WAS TRAPPED. OUTTA ONE CAGE, INTO ANOTHER.

"THAT NEW DRUG HAD SEEN TO THAT.

"CIRCE WANTED TO USE MINERVA'S KNOWLEDGE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND AMAZON HISTORY TO HELP WITH HER CRAZY SCHEMES.

"SHE EVEN MADE THE CHEETAH PART OF HER BESTIAMORPH ARMY--- -- - ONE OF HER PET CATS, Y'MIGHT SAY-- AND TREATED HER LIKE IT.

"THIS WAS DEFINITELY NOT THE KINDA TREATMENT DOCTOR MINERVA WAS USED TO.

THE DRUG CIRCE CREATED WAS NOT LIKE THE ONE CHUMA CONCOCTED FROM THE VINE OF URZKARTAGA.

THIS POTION'S SIDE EFFECTS WERE MARKEDLY *DIFFERENT*.

IT TURNS MY OWN BLOODLUST *AGAINST* ME.

" 'WITHOUT MY REGULAR FIX, FRESH BLOOD, MY SOLE MEANS OF SUSTENANCE, IS PURGED FROM MY SYSTEM AS IF IN A BULIMIC SPASM.

" 'BEFORE, I RELISHED THE TASTE OF BLOOD. NOW IT WAS ONLY PALATABLE WHEN SEASONED BY THAT DAMNED DRUG.

" 'CIRCE HAD MADE ME HER SLAVE.

" 'AND BY GOD, SHE'LL *PAY* FOR THAT.' "

THEMYSCIRA...

IN THE ONCE-MAGNIFICENT CAPITAL CITY, AMAZON WORK CREWS STRIVE MIGHTILY TO DIG OUT FROM THE CARNAGE BROUGHT ABOUT BY GOD AND MAN.

AMID THE RUCKUS OF POUNDING HAMMERS AND CRASHING MARBLE ARE THE MOURNFUL WAILS FOR THE DEAD-- AND DYING.

"<EPIONE, HOW FARES THE QUEEN?>

"<NOT WELL, HERACLES.>"

<I HAVE DONE ALL THAT I CAN, BUT I FEAR IT IS NOT NEARLY ENOUGH.>

<NEVER HAS THE ISLAND OF HEALING BEEN SO INUNDATED WITH PATIENTS. EVEN SOME OF MY BEST HEALERS ARE AMONG THE WOUNDED.>

<CURSE THAT CIRCE. SHE FREED ME FROM MY BONDAGE WITHIN THE BOWELS OF THIS ISLAND--

<-- ONLY SO THAT I MAY STAND BY IMPOTENTLY AS ALL I HOLD DEAR DIE AROUND ME.>

<PERHAPS IT IS FOR THE BEST.>

<I MEAN... EVEN IF HIPPOLYTE WERE TO RECOVER-- ONLY TO SEE HOW MISERABLY THE GODS FAILED HER -- ALL OF US.>

"<WHAT HAS SHE TO FACE, EXCEPT OUR IMPENDING DEMISE -- AND WORD THAT HER DAUGHTER IS DEAD?>

"<PERHAPS IT IS... FOR THE BEST.>"

<AMAZONS! I CALL THE SISTERHOOD TO ARMS! IF THEMYSCIRA IS TO DIE LET IT BE AS A LION, NOT A LAMB!>

<THE GODS WILL NOT HELP US NOW -- NO ONE WILL! AS ALWAYS WE AMAZONS MUST STAND ALONE!>

<THEMYSCIRA IS *OUR* ISLAND! IT IS WE WHO MUST DEFEND IT -- WITH BLOOD AND WITH BLADE!>

<NO, IPHTHIME-- ALONE WE DON'T STAND A CHANCE AGAINST SO POWERFUL A SORCERESS AS CIRCE.>

<REMEMBER WHAT SHE DID TO *LORD HERMES*...>

"<... AND DIANA.>

"<WE ARE NOT ALONE IN THIS BATTLE, IPHTHIME. REMEMBER THAT.>

"<BY GAEA, WE WOULD NOT EVEN BE ALIVE NOW HAD IT NOT BEEN FOR THE INTERVENTION OF WHAT THE OUTWORLDERS CALL *SUPERHEROES*.>"

<I REMEMBER, MNEMOSYNE...>

"<JUST AS I REMEMBER THAT IT WAS ALSO THE OUTWORLDERS WHO NEARLY DESTROYED US.>"

LION LEADER TO PRIDE. FAN OUT OVER TARGET AREA. DROP LOAD AT WILL.

IF THE HAWKPEOPLE AND STARMAN PERSIST, REGARD THEM AS ENEMY PLANES AND --

LION LEADER! THERE'S ANOTHER UFO COMING IN AT 10 O'CLOCK!

HUH? OH NO-- NOT *HIM*.

LION LEADER! DO YOU HEAR ME?

ABORT AND RETURN TO BASE! THIS IS ALL A DREADFUL MISTAKE!

CHECK WITH YOUR COMMAND CENTER! THIS MISSION IS SCRUBBED!

PLEASE! DON'T MAKE ME DO SOMETHING WE'LL ALL REGRET! THIS MISSION IS SCRUBBED!

LION LEADER-- I'M GETTING CONFIRMATION FROM BASE. WE'RE A WASH!

THANK GOD.

LET'S JUST GET SOME RECON PHOTOS AND GET OUT OF HERE!

<THESE OUTWORLDERS WAR AMONG THEMSELVES SIMPLY TO DECIDE WHICH OF THEM SHALL HAVE THE PRIVILEGE OF CONQUEST OVER US.>

<BUT, DON'T YOU SEE? THAT IS EXACTLY HOW THE OUTWORLDERS REGARD US!>

<THERE IS AN AMAZON FACTION OUT THERE THAT HAS CONVINCED IN THE WORLD BEYOND THAT WE SEEK WORLD DOMINATION.>

<ANOTHER AMAZON RACE?>

<IMPOSSIBLE.>

<IT'S A TRICK.>

<YES... A MAN'S TRICK>

HANSCOME A.F.B., BEDFORD, MASS.

COME IN, LT. CANDY.

I ASSUME YOU HEARD WHAT HAPPENED ON PARADISE ISLAND THE OTHER DAY?

YES, GEN. HILLARY.

AMAZING HOW STARMAN AND THE THANAGARIANS FOUND OUT ABOUT THAT RAID, ISN'T IT?

HELL, EVEN I HAD NO IDEA THAT FOOL YEDZINIAK HAD TAKEN IT SO FAR.

PROBABLY BECAUSE IT WAS *SUPPOSED* TO BE TOP SECRET. WHETHER I AGREED WITH IT OR NOT IS IRRELEVANT. IT WAS A MATTER OF GOVERNMENT SECURITY.

UNTIL, OF COURSE, WE SPRUNG A *LEAK*.

WE TRACED A DISTRESS SIGNAL BACK TO OUR OWN GOVERNMENT COMPUTERS RIGHT HERE.

THE PERP WAS AN EXPERT, AND THERE ARE ONLY THREE SUCH CLASSIFIED EXPERTS CURRENTLY ON THIS BASE.

HILLARY, STOP THIS SONG AND DANCE. HELL, I ALREADY CONFESSED TO IT, DIDN'T I?

MP

NO, STEVE. IT'S NO USE.

GEN. HILLARY, I-I DO NOW FREELY CONFESS TO SENDING OUT THAT SIGNAL IN DIRECT VIOLATION OF THE IMPLICIT ORDERS OF MY COMMANDING OFFICERS...

I'M SORRY, SIR... I-I HAD NO CHOICE.

SO AM I, LIEUTENANT. BECAUSE NOW I HAVE NO CHOICE EITHER.

I HEREBY ORDER THAT LT. ETTA CANDY BE CHARGED WITH VIOLATION OF *AFR* 205-1 AND REMANDED TO MILITARY CUSTODY PENDING AN OFFICIAL MOTION FOR COURT-MARTIAL.

MINERVA BIDED HER TIME. UNTIL SHE COULD FIND A CHINK IN CIRCE'S ARMOR, SHE JUST DID THE JOB THE WITCH HAD SALVAGED HER FOR.

WHICH WAS-- ?

"TO HELP SOME PRO FROM CHICAGO NAMED *KASLAK* DETERMINE WHICH ANCIENT RELICS TO SWIPE FROM WHICH MUSEUMS.

"Y'SEE, EACH ONE OF THEM RELICS WAS IMPORTANT FOR PUTTING TOGETHER WHAT CIRCE CALLED THE *HELLFIRE SPELL*.

"BUT CIRCE COULDN'T JUST HAVE A BUNCH OF WILD BESTIAMORPHS CHARGING INTO THOSE MUSEUMS. THAT MIGHTA TIPPED HER HAND TOO SOON.

"SHE NEEDED A DIVERSION."

" THE WITCH MANAGED TO ENGAGE WHAT WAS LEFT OF THE AMAZONS OF BANA-MIGHDALL.

" IN EXCHANGE FOR THEIR SERVICES, CIRCE PROMISED TO RESTORE THEM TO WHAT THEY BELIEVED WAS THEIR RIGHTFUL PLACE OF POWER.

" 'BUT FOR THAT THEY NEEDED A QUEEN.

" CHEETAH TOLD ME SHE'D BROUGHT SOME SHARDS OF METAL THAT THEY BROUGHT WITH THEM FROM THE EGYTIAN DESERT AND MELTED THEM DOWN PER CIRCE'S INSTRUCTIONS.

" DURING ALL THIS, CIRCE MUTTERED SOME ARCHAIC INCANTATIONS. THE MOLTEN METAL SEEMED ALMOST ALIVE THEN.

" 'THEN A STRANGE CHALICE WAS BROUGHT OUT AND THE LIQUID METAL WAS POURED OVER IT, COOLING INTO A PATINA-- A SECOND SKIN."

" CHEETAH LOOKED LIKE SHE'D BLOW A GASKET AS SHE 'SPLAINED THE REST TO ME."

IT WASN'T UNTIL I SAW QUEEN HIPPOLYTE DRINKING FROM THAT SAME CUP AT THE UNITED NATIONS THAT I STARTED TO UNDERSTAND CIRCE'S PLAN.

IT WAS ALL PART OF A CONSPIRACY TO TURN THE WORLD AGAINST THE THEMYSCIRANS-- AND WONDER WOMAN.

"AND THAT'S ALSO WHY SHE HIRED THAT SIDE-SHOW FREAK CALLED *DR. PSYCHO.*"

DR. PSYCHO... THEN CIRCE WAS BEHIND--?

YEAH... THAT'S HOW HE *MANAGED* TO GET TO HERMES, TOO.

PROB'LY EXPLAINS HOW HE ESCAPED THE MAGIC LASSO. WITH HIS POWERS, DIANA PROB'LY ONLY *IMAGINED* SHE TIED HIM UP.

YOU 'N' YOUR KID SHOULD CONSIDER YERSELVES LUCKY. IF PSYCHO HAD DECIDED TO USE HIS MIND TRICKS TO MAKE PEOPLE THINK HE WAS *YOU*...

WELL, HE'D A MADE SURE ONLY *ONE* OF YOU WOULD EVER BE SEEN.

AS HE DID WITH DR. STANTON... AND POOR HORACE WESTLAKE. OH GOD...

UH... MAYBE I SAID TOO MUCH ALREADY. I DIDN'T MEAN TO... MAYBE WE SHOULD JUST CALL IT--

NO. IF THE CHEETAH SAID THIS MIGHT HELP DIANA SAVE OUR WORLD THEN MAYBE WE CAN TAKE UP WHERE SHE LEFT OFF.

PLEASE CONTINUE, INSPECTOR. I OWE IT TO DIANA TO HEAR IT *ALL*.

IT STILL FEELS SO UNREAL. NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I LOOK AT THE PHOTOS, I JUST CAN'T BELIEVE THAT DIANA IS DEAD.

BLAST! IF ONLY I HAD GOTTEN THERE SOONER.

WONDER WOMAN DEAD

I CAN STILL SEE THEIR FACES-- ALL THE HATRED IN THEIR EYES.

"AS IF I TOO HAD BETRAYED THEM."

DIANA! WHERE'S PRINCESS DI--

DEAR LORD... NO!!

<DAMN YOU ALL! LEAVE THIS ISLAND, OUTWORLDER! HAVE YOU AND YOUR KIND NOT CAUSED ENOUGH SORROW FOR ONE LIFETIME?>

<OUR PRINCESS IS DEAD AND OUR QUEEN LIES DYING. AND SO MANY OTHERS...

<ALL BECAUSE WE THOUGHT THE WORLD BEYOND WAS READY FOR US. WHAT FOOLS WE WERE!>

PLEASE... I DON'T UNDERSTAND YOU, BUT... I ONLY WISH TO HELP...

I-I'M... SO SORRY...

SUPERMAN... I KNOW YOU MEAN WELL...

...BUT THERE'S NOTHING MORE YOU CAN DO HERE.

I THINK YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS... BETTER GO.

"AND GO WE DID. YOU WERE VERY BRAVE, PROF. KAPATELIS, BUT DIANA HAD TOLD ME HOW WORRIED YOU ALWAYS WERE ABOUT YOUR DAUGHTER.

"THE LEAST I COULD DO, FOR DIANA'S SAKE AS WELL AS VANESSA'S, WAS TAKE YOU BACK TO HER."

YEAH... THE VERY LEAST I COULD DO.

OH, DIANA, YOU PLACED YOUR TRUST IN HUMANITY AND THIS IS HOW YOU WERE REWARDED.

THOSE EYES... SO HOPEFUL. SO HONEST. IT'S NO WONDER I NEARLY FELL FOR THEM.

A WONDER WOMAN... WHO JUST WANTED TO BE EVERYONE'S FRIEND... AND MINE...

...BUT WHEN THE GOING GOT TOUGH... WHERE WAS YOUR GOOD FRIEND SUPERMAN WHEN YOU NEEDED HIM?

NOT EVEN A NEWS ITEM TO SUPPORT YOU. NOT EVEN A REBUTTAL TO THE CHARGES. NOT EVEN A PHONE CALL.

WELL, DIANA, I MAY HAVE GOTTEN INTO THE GAME LATE, BUT NOW THAT I'M IN, I'M GOING TO SEE IT THROUGH TO THE LAST INNING.

IT'S TIME THIS BELEAGUERED PLANET STARTED EARNING YOUR--

LOIS?

CLARK?

ARE YOU GOING AFTER CIRCE?

YEAH. WITH AS MUCH HELP AS I CAN GET.

CLARK... PROMISE ME YOU'LL BE CAREFUL. IF DIANA COULD DIE AT CIRCE'S HAND THEN...

DON'T SAY IT-- DON'T EVEN THINK IT.

" CHEETAH WENT ON, THIS'S WHAT SHE SAID ... I 'MEMBER EV'RY WORD:

" 'THAT THEMYSCIRAN GOBLET MUST HAVE BEEN WORTH A FORTUNE. AND IF I WAS TO EXACT MY REVENGE ON THE WITCH, I WAS GOING TO REQUIRE FINANCING.

" 'THAT'S WHAT BROUGHT ME TO THE GOTHAM CITY GRAND HOTEL THAT FATEFUL NIGHT.

" 'UNFORTUNATELY, MIKOS HAD ALREADY GOTTEN THERE BEFORE ME.

" 'AS QUEEN HIPPOLYTE STOOD TRANSFIXED, THE GOBLET BEGAN TO GLOW.

" 'ITS PATINA, THE METAL DUG OUT FROM WHAT WAS ONCE BANA-MIGHDALL, STARTED TO ENGULF THE THEMYSCIRAN QUEEN.

" 'YES, IT WAS CLEAR NOW. THE MIDDLE-EASTERN AMAZONS NEEDED A NEW QUEEN, A NEW CHAMPION.

" 'SO CIRCE GAVE THEM ONE : HIPPOLYTE-- THE NEW *SHIM'TAR!*

" 'THE AMAZON QUEEN LOOKED CONFUSED. MOST LIKELY THE CURSE STILL HADN'T TAKEN FULL EFFECT YET.

" 'A SORT OF PINIONED POLICE ESCORT CAME TO USHER HER TO HER NEW OFFICE--

" 'AS MIKOS WENT TO RETRIEVE THE THEMYSCIRAN GOBLET, I KNEW I WOULD HAVE TO STRIKE QUICKLY.

" 'THAT'S WHEN THE UNEXPECTED HAPPENED.

" 'I NEVER COUNTED ON MAXIE ZEUS' MEN CHARGING IN LIKE THAT.

" 'THEY ALMOST RUINED EVERYTHING.'

"YEAH, BUT NOT QUITE. MIKOS AND THE OTHER FREAKS MANAGED TO GET OUTTA THE HOTEL WITH THE QUEEN--"

--BUT LEFT THE GOBLET BEHIND.

"MINERVA HAD MADE ARRANGEMENTS WITH MAXIE ZEUS, WHO SHE MET IN ARKHAM ASYLUM, TO FENCE THE GOBLET TO HIM. THE NUTCASE JUST GOT IMPATIENT.

"IF THEY ONLY KNEW THE DAMN THING WAS A *FAKE*.

"THEN MAYBE PHILIPPUS AND HELLENE WOULDN'T'VE CHASED AFTER 'EM IN THE STAIRWELL..."

<SISTER! WHERE DID YOU COME FROM?>

<INSOLENT WRETCH! THIS WILL TEACH YOU NEVER TO STRIKE AN AMAZON.>

<SISTER, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? QUICK, THE THEIF IS ESCAPING. PICK UP THE GOBLET AND WE-->

<WAIT... I DON'T KNOW YOU. YOU'RE NOT..>

"<HEAD... REELING... DON'T UNDERSTAND...>"

"WHAT THE HELL IS SHE BLABBERING ABOUT NOW?"

IF YOU'LL JUST SHUT UP FOR A MINUTE, GEN. YEDZINIAK, I MIGHT BE ABLE TO HEAR HER.

THOSE DRUGS YOU'RE PUMPING INTO HER HAVEN'T HELPED HER WEAKENED CONDITION ANY.

<PHILIPPUS... THIS IS PHYLLIS HALLER... YOU SAID YOU FOUND SOME... UNFAMILIAR AMAZON?>

"<YES... SHE TOOK... GOBLET...>

"<THEN... BIG CAT... WOMAN...>

"<HELLENE... NO... STAY BACK...>

"<BLOOD... BLOOD EVERYWHERE...>

"<HELLENE...>

Rooo

<DEAR GODS... HELLENE...>

" 'I HEARD SOMEONE COMING FROM DOWNSTAIRS. ONE WAY OR ANOTHER IT HAD TO BE AN AMAZON. I TOOK THE GOBLET AND RAN."

" 'I MAKE NO APOLOGIES FOR KILLING THAT AMAZON. SHE WAS IN MY WAY. RIGHT NOW CIRCE IS A GREATER THREAT THAN I CAN EVER BE.'

IT SEEMS THAT CIRCE THOUGHT IT RATHER APPROPRIATE TO HAVE HIPPOLYTE'S DISAPPEARANCE COINCIDE WITH THE ATTACK ON THE GOTHAM GRAND -- TO PLACE A CONNECTION IN EVERYONE'S MIND.

CIRCE'S PLAN STARTED WITH THE GOBLET'S CURSE -- PERHAPS BY THWARTING IT, A DOMINO EFFECT MIGHT OCCUR.

TELL PRINCESS DIANA HER MOTHER IS IN EGYPT. TELL HER THAT SHE MAY VERY WELL BE THE KEY--

WHAT'S THE MATTER? WHAT'S WRONG?

THEY'VE FOUND ME. I CAN HEAR THEM.

WHO? I DON'T HEAR--

SHUT UP! THEY'RE COMING FOR ME! CAN'T LET THEM GET ME!

OUT OF MY WAY, DAMN YOU. I'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE!

GRAARRRRRR!!! OUT OF MY WAY!!

"AT FIRST, MY COP'S INSTINCTS TOLD ME I SHOULD CHASE AFTER HER, BUT THEN I REMEMBERED ABOUT NESSIE.

"AND I HEARD... THEM.

"IT WAS EXACTLY LIKE DIANA DESCRIBED THEM. ALL THE SOUNDS OF HELL CALLIN' OUT AT ONCE.

"I REMEMBER THINKIN' 'WHAT A GREAT CHAPTER THIS'LL MAKE FOR MY BOOK: BURNIN' RED EYES GLOWED THROUGH THE WINDOWS, DARTIN' ABOUT FRANTICALLY.

" 'THEN THE EYES BROKE THROUGH THE GLASS-- SURROUNDED BY DARK FANNING FEATHERS, BRISTLIN' FUR AND JAGGED TEETH.'

"I'D PROMISED THE CHEETAH THAT I WOULD COME UNARMED...

"I DIDN'T SAY NOTHIN' 'BOUT MY LEGS.

"I WHIPPED MY PIECE OUTTA MY ANKLE HOLSTER SO FAST I DIDN'T EVEN HAVE TIME TO AIM--

BLAM!

"--BUT SOMETIMES YA JUST GET LUCKY.

"HOWEVER, BEFORE I COULD FIRE ANOTHER SHOT, THEY WERE ALL OVER ME. MAYBE I COULD GET OUT ONE MORE SHOT, BUT--

"THEN, EVERYTHING REALLY WENT NUTS.

"THE CRITTERS STARTED JUMPIN' AND SCREAMIN' AS IF SOMEONE HAD PUT 'EM ON A HOT GREASED SKILLET.

"THEY STARTED TO CHANGE.

"I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG IT TOOK... IT SEEMED LIKE FOREVER.

"BUT WHEN IT WAS ALL OVER, THOSE MONSTERS HAD ALL TURNED BACK INTO ORDINARY ANIMALS.

"JUDGIN' BY THEIR EXPRESSIONS, I FIGURED THEY WERE AS SURPRISED AS I WAS.

"THEY ALL SCATTERED OUT OF THE OLD AFRICAN MEETING HOUSE LIKE SLAVES FREED BY LINCOLN.

"ALL THAT WAS LEFT FOR ME TO DO WAS GET VANESSA."

INSP. INDELICATO -- WHAT'S GOING ON?

YA GOT ME, VANESSA. IT'S LIKE SOME FREAKIN' *MIRACLE!*

YEAH... A MIRACLE. I MANAGED TO GET BACK HERE ONLY TO FIND OUT DIANA WAS ALREADY DEAD.

'CORDIN' TO BATMAN, SHE NEVER EVEN TRIED TO CALL ME BEFORE OR AFTER SHE MET HIM IN GOTHAM CITY. PROB'LY FIGGERED I WAS STILL P.O.'D AT HER.

I NEVER EVEN GOT THE CHANCE TO SAY I'M SORRY. NOT EVEN GOODBYE.

DON'T MATTER MUCH NOW, I GUESS. THE WORLD WOULD'VE BEEN A PRETTY EMPTY PLACE WITHOUT DIANA...

...BUT IT DON'T LOOK LIKE THERE'LL BE MUCH OF A WORLD LEFT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

WONDER WOMAN IS DEAD.

FOUR WORDS PRINTED ON PAPER THAT SHOULD WEIGH ON OUR HEARTS LIKE THE EARTH UPON ATLAS' SHOULDERS.

DAILY
WONDER WOMAN IS DEAD

SHE WAS BORN IN A LAND OF PEACE AND COMPASSION, A PLACE WHERE SHE COULD HAVE REMAINED SAFE FOR THE REST OF HER LIFE.

BUT INSTEAD SHE CHOSE TO COMMIT HERSELF TO SHARING THE SECRETS OF PARADISE WITH A SOCIETY LONG RESIGNED TO LIVING WITHOUT IT.

DIANA PREACHED PEACE ABOVE ALL ELSE, AND LIKE SO MANY PEACEMAKERS, SHE DIED FOR HER BELIEFS.

WE SUPER-HEROES FACE EVIL SO OFTEN, THAT WE TOO BECOME JADED.

WITH ALL THE IGNORANCE AND HATE AROUND US, HOW EASY IT IS TO FORGET WHY WE CHOSE TO BE HEROES IN THE FIRST PLACE.

BUT DIANA NEVER FORGOT. NOR SHALL WE..

WONDER WOMAN IS DEAD, BUT HER DREAM MUST NOT DIE WITH HER.

"DIANA DIED TRYING TO SAVE A WORLD SHE LOVED, A WORLD SHE BELIEVED IN. SHE MUST NOT HAVE DIED IN VAIN.

"IN THE NAME OF OUR FALLEN ALLY -- LET'S END THIS WAR -- ONCE AND FOR ALL--

"-- FOR DIANA!"

FOR DIANA
TO BE CONCLUDED IN
WAR OF THE GODS NO.4

"GOOD LORD, I FELT THAT ONE!

"LOOK AT THAT! THE BLASTED GRAPH IS ZIGZAGGING LIKE A SPASTIC'S SCRAWL!

"GOD HELP US, I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG THIS PLANET IS GOING TO SURVIVE THIS ABUSE!"

"I'VE NEVER SEEN READINGS LIKE THIS! INDICATORS ARE FLASHING NUMBERS I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW EXISTED.

"HONG KONG REPORTS ENORMOUS TIDAL WAVES CRASHING ALMOST 100 KILOMETERS INTO ITS COAST.

"GREENLAND NOTES EXPANDING WHIRLPOOL ACTIVITY OFF THE GREAT BARRIER REEF, WITH AT LEAST FIFTY SHIPS SUCKED IN SO FAR--LIKE AN AQUATIC BLACK HOLE.

"WE HAVE CONFIRMATION OF MORE RIFTS IN THE OZONE LAYER. GLOBAL WARMING HAS ESCALATED 500% AND IS CLIMBING!

"IT'S AS IF THE SKY ITSELF WERE READY TO IGNITE."

PROFESSOR CARSON, OUR S.T.A.R. COMPUTERS CALCULATE THAT EARTH SHOULD HAVE BURNT TO A CINDER OR IMPLODED INTO THE SEA BY NOW.

AS MUCH AS MY SCIENTIFIC MIND REBELS AGAINST THE CONCEPT, IT APPEARS YOU WERE RIGHT.

THE ONLY THING HOLDING THE EARTH TOGETHER IS THE SAME THING THAT MUST HAVE PRECIPITATED THESE CATASTROPHES--

--SOME SORT OF BLACK MAGIC. A MAD ACT OF GOD.

UNFORTUNATELY, DR. KLYBURN, IT LOOKS LIKE THAT MAGIC SPELL MAY BE DIMINISHING.

SO, WHAT DO YOU SUGGEST WE DO?

THERE'S NOTHING MORE SCIENCE CAN DO NOW, DR. KLYBURN.

IT APPEARS OUR ONLY OPTION IS PRAYER.

WAR OF THE GODS 4. December, 1991. Published monthly by DC Comics Inc., 1325 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10019. Copyright © 1991 DC Comics Inc. All Rights Reserved. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. All characters featured in this issue and distinctive likenesses thereof are trademarks of DC Comics Inc. Printed in U.S.A.
DC Comics Inc. A Warner Bros. Inc. Company

IN THE BEGINNING... THERE WAS THE END

STORY AND LAYOUTS BY GEORGE PÉREZ
FINISHED ART BY PABLO MARCOS, ALAN KUPPERBERG, PHIL JIMINEZ, GORDON PURCELL, DICK GIORDANO, FRANK McLAUGHLIN

LETTERING BY: ALBERT DEGUZMAN AND RICHARD STARKINGS
COLORS BY: GENE D'ANGELO

EDITORIAL ASSISTANCE: BOB KAHAN
EDITING BY: TOM PEYER & KAREN BERGER

SUPERMAN TO EARTH. WE'VE CIRCLED NEW OLYMPUS HALF A DOZEN TIMES BUT HAVE SEEN NO ACTIVITY.

THAT COULD BE A TRICK. DIDN'T YOU SAY THAT YOU CAN NEVER TRUST YOUR EYES WHEN IT COMES TO OLYMPUS?

AFFIRMATIVE. OR ANY OF OUR SENSES.

IT SEEMS TO BE EXPANDING STEADILY, INCHING INTO EARTH'S ORBIT.

IF WE FAIL, IT'LL BE ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE EARTH IS DESTROYED AND OLYMPUS TAKES ITS PLACE. IF ONLY CIRCE KNEW...

HEY, WHAT THE HELL ARE WE WAITING FOR? IF *PARIAH* IS RIGHT, WE'RE WASTING TIME ON THIS RECON JOB.

'SIDES, WHAT MAKES YOU THINK THAT CIRCE CAN'T HEAR EVERYTHING WE'RE SAYING? SHE'S PROBABLY LAUGHING HER GUTS OUT RIGHT NOW.

IF THAT'S TRUE, THEN SHE'S MADDER THAN WE THOUGHT. I HAVE TO BELIEVE THAT WE MAY STILL BE ABLE TO REASON WITH HER.

REASON-- WITH CIRCE? AFTER WHAT SHE DID TO WONDER WOMAN!?

I HATE TO SAY THIS, SUPERMAN, BUT GARDNER'S RIGHT. CIRCE MAY GIVE US NO CHOICE.

IF CIRCE IS UNAWARE OF THE TRUE REPERCUSSIONS OF HER ACTIONS, THEN NOTHING WE SAY OR DO IS GOING TO CONVINCE HER.

AND IF SHE *IS* AWARE OF IT, THEN NOTHING WE SAY OR DO IS GOING TO DISSUADE HER.

IF THIS WAR IS GOING TO END, THE VICTORY MUST BE TOTAL AND FINAL.

WHAT SAY THE TROOPS ON DIANATA?

WE CONCUR, RELUCTANTLY. ALL WE JUSTICE LEAGUERS NEED IS THE SIGNAL.

DR. FATE?

JUST A FEW MOMENTS LONGER, J'ONN. SYNCHRONICITY IS ALL-IMPORTANT RIGHT NOW.

YOU MUST HIT CIRCE ALL AT ONCE AND PRAY THAT PARIAH'S PREDICTION CAN BE AVERTED.

LILITH, DO YOU THINK IT CAN? PARIAH'S NEVER BEEN WRONG BEFORE.

IF ONLY I COULD HAVE TOLD DONNA "I LOVE YOU"...ONE LAST TIME.

DON'T SIGN HER DEATH CERTIFICATE YET, TERRY. IF DONNA WERE ALREADY DEAD, I'D FEEL IT.

WE WOULDN'T EVEN HAVE HAD *THIS* CHANCE IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR YOU CONNECTING WITH PARIAH.

WE MUSTN'T ABANDON HOPE, TERRY. IF WE DO WE ABANDON *EVERYTHING*.

FLASH, WHAT THE HELL'S EATING YOU? YOU HAVEN'T SAID A WORD.

EXCUSE ME... PANTHA, IS IT?... BUT I EXPECTED TO TEAM UP WITH THE *TITANS*, MY *FRIENDS*, NOT SOME PACK OF WEIRDOS.

GRRR--I'VE ALREADY EXPLAINED IT TO YOU. THE TITANS HAVE BEEN MISSING FOR WEEKS, CAPTURED LIKE AMATEURS BY THE WILDEBEEST. HELL, WE THOUGHT TROIA WAS WITH THEM.

AND YOU EXPECT ME TO BELIEVE THAT THE *TERMINATOR* WOULD BAND A GROUP TOGETHER TO HELP *RESCUE* THEM?

HOW DO I KNOW THAT *YOU* ALL AREN'T RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT'S HAPPENED TO THE TITANS--TO GOLDEN EAGLE--TO GARTH--TO VICTOR STONE?

FLASH... IS IT NOT ENOUGH THAT THEY ARE HERE?

DAMMIT, RED STAR, THIS ISN'T THE *U.S.S.R.*, Y'KNOW!

NOR IS IT THE *U.S.A.*! THIS IS THE EARTH!

AND THAT IS A CAUSE FAR BIGGER THAN ANY DIFFERENCES BETWEEN US. YOU DO "BUY THAT," DON'T YOU, KID FLASH?

YEAH... YOU MADE YOUR POINT... AND THE NAME'S "FLASH," JUST "FLASH."

MAN, BATMAN. THIS WHOLE THING'S GIVING ME THE CREEPS. I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE THIS.

I HAVE. MORE TIMES THAN I CARE TO REMEMBER.

THE RED SKIES, THAT FEELING OF OBLIVION PEEPING OVER THE HORIZON. IT'S ALL *TOO* DAMN FAMILIAR.

NOT TO SOUND NEGATIVE, BRUCE, BUT... WHAT KIND OF FIGHTING CHANCE DO WE HAVE?

I MEAN... WONDER WOMAN'S DEAD... AND ACCORDING TO THAT PARIAH GUY...

BATMAN REPORTING FROM GOTHAM CITY. WE'RE READY. I JUST HOPE DR. FATE IS WRONG.

I HEAR YOU BATMAN.

BUT, GOTHAM CITY IS WHERE THE POWER OF THE THEMYSCIRAN GOBLET WAS UNLEASHED. ALL THE MYSTICS BELIEVE CIRCE CHOSE IT FOR A REASON.

AND HOW ABOUT YOU, AQUAMAN? YOU AND DOLPHIN SET UP ALL RIGHT?

YEP--RIGHT NEAR THE LAST PLACE ON EARTH THE WITCH WAS SEEN--

--THEMYSCIRA.

TO THINK... JUST A FEW MONTHS AGO THE AMAZONS DESTROYED MOST OF THEIR WEAPONS, THINKING THE TIME FOR WARRIORS WAS PAST--

"--NOW THE FORGES ARE WORKING OVERTIME AGAIN.

"I WONDER IF THEY'VE NOTICED THE IRONY.

"CENTURIES AGO THEY TOOK UP ARMS TO DEFEND THEMSELVES AGAINST MANKIND.

"THEN THEY CAME TO THIS ISLAND AND WERE PROTECTED BY THE GODS FROM THE VIOLENCE OF OUR WORLD BEYOND.

"NOW THE TIME OF THE WARRIOR HAS DAWNED YET AGAIN--

"--BUT THIS TIME THE AMAZONS MUST SIDE WITH THAT SAME MANKIND THEY ONCE FEARED--AGAINST THE GODS THEY ONCE RELIED SO ARDENTLY UPON.

"YES... SO VERY IRONIC."

"ORACLE?"

< MENALIPPE, DID YOU NOT HEAR ME? YOUR SISTERS AWAIT YOU TO LEAD IN THE BATTLE PRAYER. >

< I HAVE INSTRUCTED PENELOPE TO SPEAK IN MY PLACE, LORD HERACLES. >

< I MUST REMAIN HERE... WITH DIANA. >

< HAVE YOU NOT NOTICED HOW STRANGELY THE FIRE BURNS? EVEN NOW, WITH THE PYRE ALMOST TOTALLY CONSUMED, THE FLAMES STILL DANCE AS IF YOUNG. >

< AS IF THEY REFUSE TO DIE. >

< IT IS A SIGN... I CAN FEEL IT. >

< MENALIPPE, THERE IS NOTHING MORE YOU CAN DO. PRINCESS DIANA IS DEAD AND HER MURDER MUST BE AVENGED. >

< LEAVE HER ALONE, PYTHIA. WE MUST ALL SHOULDER SORROW IN OUR OWN WAY. >

< FOR MENALIPPE, IT IS WITH PRAYER. >

< FOR HERACLES, IT WILL BE WITH BLOOD! >

I DON'T LIKE THIS, HAWKWOMAN. THEY MAY ALL VERY WELL BE KILLED AND WE'RE JUST GOING TO WAIT HERE!?

THIS ISN'T ANY EASIER FOR ME, POWER GIRL. I'VE NEVER RUN AWAY FROM A FIGHT IN MY ENTIRE LIFE.

BUT WE HAVE TO DO IT. IT'S OUR ONLY CHANCE..

BUT, WHAT KIND OF CHANCE ARE WE TALKING ABOUT HERE? WE'RE TAKING THE WORD OF SOMEONE WHO MAY BE MAD.

YEAH, AND EVEN IF WHAT PARIAH SAYS IS TRUE, WHAT GOOD ARE WE GOING TO BE WITHOUT WONDER WOMAN?

I'M SCARED... SO TERRIBLY SCARED...

BAH! YOU'RE ALWAYS SCARED. GUESS THAT'S WHY I WAS BROUGHT HERE--TO MAKE SURE YOU STAY PUT UNTIL THIS IS ALL OVER.

YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO'LL BE ABLE TO TELL US WHETHER THIS PLAN SUCCEEDS OR NOT.

BUT DON'T YOU SEE?! THAT'S WHAT SCARES ME. PART OF ME SO WANTS IT TO FAIL.

IT WOULD BE... SUCH A RELIEF. NOT SEEING THE FACES OF MY WIFE... MY CHILDREN... DYING... OVER AND OVER...

STOP IT, YOU WHINING WIMP! CAN'T YOU SEE THAT THIS ISN'T ABOUT YOU ANYMORE!? MY PLANET DIED AS WELL. REMEMBER?

I DON'T CARE WHOSE FACES YOU SAW--THEY WERE MY FAMILY. THE LOSS WAS MINE, NOT YOURS! SO MANY PEOPLE LOST THEIR LOVED ONES AS YOU JUST WATCHED.

WHAT RIGHT HAVE YOU TO MOURN FOR THEM!?

LADY QUARK, THERE CAN BE NOTHING GAINED BY ATTACKING MOSSA NOW.

MAYBE SO, BUT IT SURE MADE ME FEEL BETTER.

HOW GOES IT, HARBINGER?

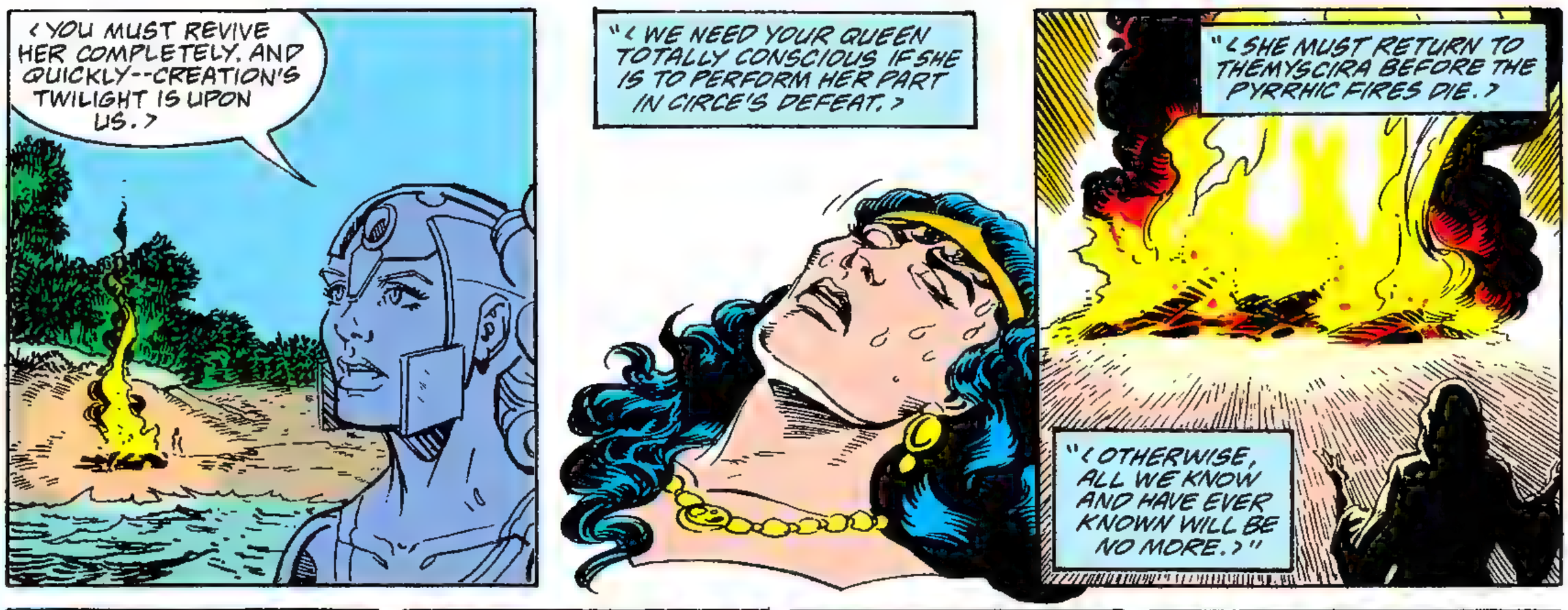
OUR TIME IS RUNNING SHORT, BUT IF EARTH'S CHAMPIONS CAN HOLD CIRCE BACK JUST LONG ENOUGH...

< DIANA... NO... DEAR GAEA... NO... >

< BY THE GODS... HIPPOLYTE, CAN YOU HEAR ME. IT IS I, EPIONE, YOUR CHIEF HEALER! >

< YOU! THE QUEEN IS STIRRING! >

< HARBINGER! WHAT DO WE DO NOW? >


‹YOU MUST REVIVE HER COMPLETELY, AND QUICKLY--CREATION'S TWILIGHT IS UPON US.›
"‹WE NEED YOUR QUEEN TOTALLY CONSCIOUS IF SHE IS TO PERFORM HER PART IN CIRCE'S DEFEAT.›
"‹SHE MUST RETURN TO THEMYSCIRA BEFORE THE PYRRHIC FIRES DIE.›
"‹OTHERWISE, ALL WE KNOW AND HAVE EVER KNOWN WILL BE NO MORE.›"
I DON'T UNDERSTAND ANY OF THIS.
VOICES ALL AROUND ME...SO FAINT...LIKE ECHOES FADING AWAY IN THE DISTANCE.
EVERYTHING SO DARK. WHERE AM I? WHAT HAPPENED?
WAIT. I REMEMBER NOW. CIRCE...THEN A DEMON OF HELL.
GREAT GAEA...I'M DEAD...
NO, DIANA. NOT TOTALLY, ANYWAY.
WHAT? WHO IS THAT?
JUST SOMEONE WHO'S HAD A LITTLE EXPERIENCE IN THESE MATTERS.
I'VE BEEN CALLED DEADMAN, BUT THAT WOULD BE REDUNDANT HERE. JUST CALL ME BOSTON--A NAME I'M SURE YOU'VE HEARD BEFORE.
YES... BUT THERE ARE OTHERS WITH YOU--I KNOW THEM. PHANTOM STRANGER... AND THE SPECTRE.
Y'SEE, PRINCESS, CIRCE'S SPELL DIDN'T WORK OUT QUITE THE WAY SHE FIGURED IT WOULD.
SHE NEVER COUNTED ON IT BEING SABOTAGED BY A WITCH BOY NAMED KLARION.
WHO?
GOOD. YOUR SENSES ARE AS SHARP AS EVER, PRINCESS. THAT WILL BE IMPORTANT FOR THE UNDERTAKING TO COME.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND.
NEVER MIND. WE ARE HERE TO ENSURE THAT CIRCE DOESN'T FIND YOU BEFORE ALL THE PREPARATIONS ARE MADE.
ALTHOUGH IT IS HARDLY LIKELY THAT WITCH WOULD EVER HAVE REASON TO ENTER GAEA'S WOMB.
7

GAEA'S WOMB? BUT, THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE ...HOW?

WAIT... WHAT'S HAPPENING? SOMETHING... STRANGE...

...A VOICE... TUNNELING THROUGH THE DARKNESS... REACHING OUT TO ME...

DONNA!?

"DONNA!"

I'VE MADE CONTACT. I'VE GOT HER.

HOLD ON, WE'RE COMING. JUST HOLD ON.

OKAY, SUPERMAN... THIS PART'S ALL YOURS NOW.

GOOD LUCK.

OKAY, TROOPS, WE SAID WE WERE DOING THIS FOR DIANA!

BUT NOW WE'RE ALSO FIGHTING FOR THE UNIVERSE!

ATTACK!!

ATTACK!!

ATTACK!!

HEY! WAIT FOR ME!

ATTACK!!

PM

MORTALS! HERE ON OLYMPUS! SACRILEGE! DESTROY THEM! DESTROY THEM ALL!

OLYMPIANS! LISTEN TO ME! YOU ARE BEING DECEIVED! THERE CAN BE NO VICTORY FOR YOU HERE!

IT'S NO USE, SUPERMAN. LOOK AT THEM. THEY'VE ALL GONE COMPLETELY INSANE.

DONNA--YOU'RE STILL ALIVE! TAKE IT EASY, YOUR OLD FRIEND WALLY'S COMIN' TO SAVE YA.

FLASH! STARMAN! REMEMBER WHAT SUPERMAN SAID! YOU CAN'T TRUST ANYTHING ON NEW OLYMPUS--NOT EVEN YOUR SENSE OF DIRECTION!

OOOOMPHH!! THANKS FOR THE REMINDER, HAWKMAN.

FIREHAWK! I'M SORRY! I WAS AIMING AT THE GOD WITH THE AXE.

BLASPHEMERS! ONCE I'VE RID MYSELF OF THESE GREEK CHARLATANS, I, JUPITER, SHALL TEACH YOU THE PENALTY FOR SIN!

THIS IS MADNESS. I HAVE THESE BESTIAMORPHS DIRECTLY IN MY SIGHTS YET I STILL KEEP MISSING THEM!

TELL ME ABOUT IT, TERMINATOR. THIS ISN'T DOING MY PEACEMAKER REPUTATION ANY GOOD EITHER.

PLEASE, YOU MUST TAKE US TO CIRCE. IF WE COULD ONLY--

AAAAHHHH!! THAT HURT!!

DIE, EMERALD DEMON! I, ARTEMIS, COMMEND YOU TO THE FIRES OF PERDITION!

< BY GAEA! THE SOUNDS OF WAR THUNDER ALL THROUGH THE HEAVENS. HOW CAN ANY MORTAL HOPE TO VANQUISH THE GODS?>

< AND IF THE GODS SHOULD FALL, WHAT WILL BECOME OF US?>

< FRETTING IS POINTLESS, PROCNE. LET US CONCENTRATE ON GUARDING DOOM'S DOORWAY.>

< AND LET US PRAY THAT HERACLES AND OUR SISTERS SUCCEED IN THEIR QUEST WITHIN.>

< I THINK I SEE HIM. FAR BELOW, A TINY FIGURE SKULKING IN THE DARKNESS. IT MUST BE HE.>

< WOULD THAT WE COULD HAVE LEAPED THAT DISTANCE. IT CERTAINLY WOULD HAVE SAVED US ALL THIS CLIMBING TIME.

< THEN SLOW YOUR TONGUES AND QUICKEN YOUR PACE. THE SON OF ZEUS MUST NOT REGRET HIS PARTNERSHIP WITH US.>

AYE, THIS LOOKS FAMILIAR ENOUGH. IF MEMORY SERVES, THIS IS HOW I ENTERED THIS PIT CENTURIES AGO WHEN MY ANGRY FATHER CURSED ME TO BEAR THE WEIGHT OF THEMYSCIRA.*

IT SEEMS I'VE SPENT HALF MY EXISTENCE WITH SOME WEIGHT OR OTHER UPON MY SHOULDERS.

*THAT'S HOW HERACLES GOT TO BE UNDER PARADISE ISLAND IN WONDER WOMAN #11-14--KB E TP

I WONDER IF ATLAS HAD MEANT OUR FIRST MEETING TO BE AN OMEN--

AH! THERE IT IS! THE STYGIAN PORTAL.

A DOOR THAT NO MORTAL MAY OPEN.

BUT, HERACLES IS NO MERE MORTAL.

ZOUNDS!!

CHARON! WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?

STAY BACK--MY FIGHT IS NOT WITH YOU. BY ZEUS, DON'T FORCE ME TO--

< LORD HERACLES! IS EVERYTHING ALL RIGHT? WE HEARD YOU CALL OUT-->

<STAY BACK, ALL OF YOU! AND DON'T LET YOUR FEET TOUCH THE STYX. EVER SINCE ACHILLES SUCH CONTACT WOULD BE FATAL TO NON OLYMPIANS.>

< I HAD HOPED TO COMMISSION THE FERRYMAN TO GUIDE US, BUT CHARON IS NOW ONE WITH THE RIVER. WE ARE ON OUR OWN.>

<...THE RIVER STYX... BY THE FIVE GODDESSES ...I NEVER IMAGINED...>

<I CAN ASSURE YOU, EUBOEA, THERE WILL BE TIME APLENTY TO GROW MORE INTIMATE WITH THE STYX SHOULD OUR VENTURE FAIL.>

< I REPEAT--STAND YOU ALL BACK. I HAVE TO PUSH THIS COLUMN JUST SO-->

<-- LEST THIS ENTIRE CAVERN COLLAPSE ON US!>

<COME! THE GRAND BATTLE AWAITS. IF WE WARRIORS ARE TO DIE, I CAN THINK OF NO WORTHIER CONTEST THAN A WAR OF THE GODS!>

OOWW!! BLAST IT! HOW ARE WE EVER GOING TO GET TO CIRCE WHEN THESE STUPID GODS WHACK AT US AT EVERY TURN!?

JUST KEEP YOUR GUARD UP, RAM. I GET THE FEELING THESE GODS COULD HAVE KILLED US ALL A HUNDRED TIMES OVER ALREADY IF THEY REALLY WANTED TO.

CIRCE'S PROBABLY MESSED WITH THEIR MINDS.

OH, THANKS A LOT, THAT MAKES US FEEL SO MUCH BETTER NOW.

HEPHAESTUS! WE WERE BOTH NEARLY DESTROYED WHEN YOUR FORGE EXPLODED--NOW YOU'RE GOING TO DISTURB HESTIA'S HEARTH!?

CURSE YOU! OUR BRETHREN NEED WEAPONS--NOW!!

NOT EVEN A FORMER WIFE!

ALL I AM CERTAIN OF IS THAT I MUST KEEP THE FIRE ALIVE.

YES, ALIVE... KEEP PANDORA'S FIRE... ALIVE...

BUT HURRY... IT CANNOT SURVIVE... MUCH LONGER... HURRY... MY SON... IT IS MY... FINAL... BEQUEST...

...VULCAN...

AWRIGHT!! THAT'S ALL I CAN STAND; I CAN'T STAND NO MORE!!

I DIDN'T BLAST ALL THE WAY THROUGH A DOZEN FRAGGING SOLAR SYSTEMS JUST TO GET MY EARS NUMBED BY SOME BLABBER-MOUTHED GEEKS!

LOBO'S IN TOWN TO CARVE UP THAT PANTY-WAIST CAPTAIN MARVEL!

UNNGH!! DAMN IT, LOBO! THERE'S NO TIME FOR THIS LUNACY!

HAVEN'T YOU ANYTHING BETTER TO DO--

--LIKE SLEEP?

WHAT THE FRAGGIN' HELL ARE Y-

...FEETAL'S GIZZ...

THAT SHOULD HOLD HIM FOR A WHILE. BY THE TIME HE WAKES UP, THIS SHOULD ALL BE OVER--

--ONE WAY OR ANOTHER.

ALL RIGHT, ENOUGH DIVERSIONS! WHAT IS GOING ON HERE?

WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME? WHAT DOES MY LOSING MY POWERS HAVE TO DO WITH THAT BATSON BOY THERE?

WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM? TO CAPTAIN MARVEL? WHAT DO THESE ROBOTS HAVE TO DO WITH IT?

PATIENCE WAS NEVER YOUR STRONGEST ATTRIBUTE, TETH-ADAM. IF YOU WILL BE QUIET FOR JUST A FEW MINUTES, I SHALL ATTEMPT TO EXPLAIN IT ALL TO YOU.

"BACK TO BEFORE I TOOK ON THE NAME OF SHAZAM, I WAS BUT A YOUNG WIZARD HUNGRY FOR AS MUCH KNOWLEDGE AS MY MIND COULD HOLD. I HAD HEARD OF THIS WISE KING OF ISRAEL WHO GUIDED HIS KINGDOM THROUGH YEARS OF PEACE AND PROSPERITY.

"ON THAT DAY IN JERUSALEM WHEN A NOMADIC WIZARD WAS GRANTED AUDIENCE WITH KING SOLOMON THE WISE, THE LEGEND OF SHAZAM WAS BORN.

"SOLOMON WAS AN OPEN-MINDED RULER, RARE IN HIS DAY. HIS RELATIONS WITH EGYPT, TYRE AND THE EDOMITES HAD OPENED UP IMMENSE LIBRARIES OF KNOWLEDGE TO HIM, AND HE DEVOURED THEM VORACIOUSLY.

"AND DESPITE THE UNREST WHICH LATER BESIEGED HIS REIGN, AND HIS OWN FAILING HEALTH, HE ALWAYS MADE TIME FOR ME, TO SHARE THAT KNOWLEDGE. HOW COULD THE WORLD BEAR THE LOSS OF SUCH A MAN?

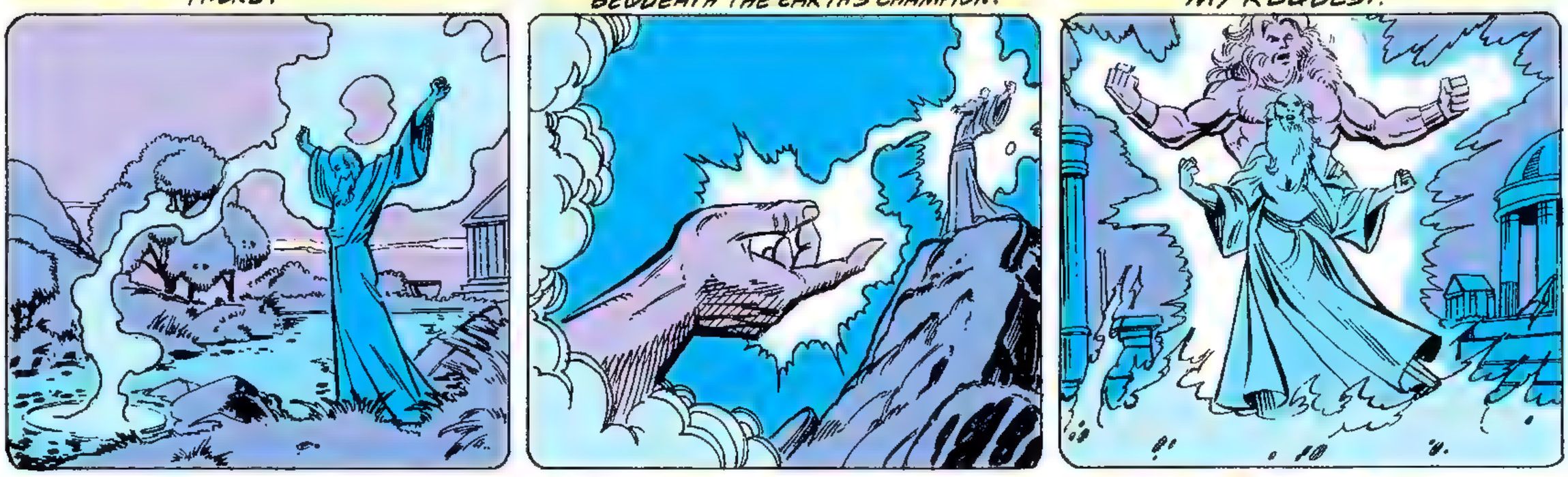
"SO IT IS THAT, AS SOLOMON LAY ON HIS DEATH BED, I PERFORMED THE GREATEST ACT OF WIZARDRY I HAD EVER ATTEMPTED. I GATHERED TO MY BOSOM BUT A SMALL FRACTION OF HIS ESSENCE, HIS WISDOM--

"--AND LEFT ISRAEL, NEVER TO RETURN. SOLOMON ONCE SPOKE OF A CHAMPION FOR ALL MANKIND. THE LIGHTNING THAT ESCORTED ME SIGNATURED MY DESTINY.

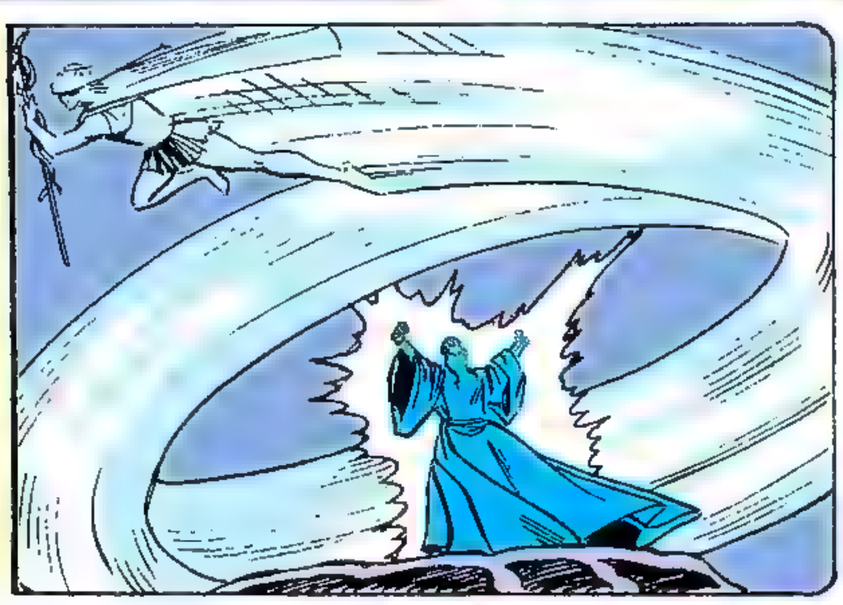
"A WORLD SO YOUNG NEEDED DIRECTION, NEEDED A CHAMPION. FROM THE BANKS OF THE RIVER STYX I DREW THE ESSENCE OF FEARLESS ACHILLES, WHOSE INVULNERABILITY HAD BEEN BORN THERE.

"AT THE EDGE OF THE WORLD, I IMPLORED THE GREAT ATLAS OF ROME TO AID IN MY MISSION. TO HARNESS BUT AN INFINITESIMAL BIT OF HIS LEGENDARY STAMINA TO BEQUEATH THE EARTH'S CHAMPION.

"IN THEBES, I HAD HOPED TO CALL UPON HERACLES, BUT THE GREEK OLYMPIAN WAS INACCESSIBLE TO ME. BUT THE ROMAN HERCULES WAS MORE THAN HAPPY TO GRANT MY REQUEST.



"UPON HEARING OF MY ENDEAVORS, THE ROMAN MERCURY WISHED TO JOIN THE COALITION. HE GRANTED ME THE RIGHT TO BEQUEATH HIS GREAT SPEED.



"I HAD DESPAIRED OF BRINGING A GREEK DEITY TO MY CAUSE, BUT ONE NIGHT, ZEUS CAME, IMPARTING A PORTION OF HIS POWER, AND THE MEANS TO CALL IT FORTH.

"WHEN I JOURNEYED TO EGYPT, ONLY ONE THING REMAINED.- THE SELECTION OF THE CHAMPION. THE GODS LED ME TO YOU, TETH-ADAM.

AS A REMOTE DESCENDANT OF EGYPT'S FIRST PHARAOH, MENES, YOU SEEMED A LOGICAL CHOICE.

BUT THEN THE EGYPTIAN GOD SET CORRUPTED THE SPELL, CHOOSING ONLY EGYPTIAN DEITIES, STEALING THEIR ESSENCES. INSTEAD OF A HERO, I CREATED A TERROR. I HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO STOP YOU.

BUT, YOUR DEFEAT WAS COSTLY. MY BODY DIED THAT NIGHT. THE GODS AND HEROES WHO EMPOWERED MY SPELL HAD LOST ALL KNOWLEDGE OF IT.

MY SOUL WAS LEFT ALONE TO BEGIN A NEW SEARCH FOR A WORTHY CHAMPION.

AND YOU SEARCHED FOR CENTURIES, JUST TO GIVE THE POWER TO A BOY?

"NOT JUST A BOY, TETH-ADAM. I SENSED THE SPIRIT IN HIS SOUL, THE SAME SPIRIT I SENSED IN SOLOMON, IN ALL THOSE HEROES--EVEN IN YOU.

IT WAS THAT SPIRIT THAT FORMED THE CORPOREAL BEING HE NAMED CAPTAIN MARVEL--A CHILD'S INNOCENT CONCEPT OF A CHAMPION.

A SUPER-HERO.

ENOUGH! YOU STILL HAVEN'T EXPLAINED HOW THE BRAT ENDED UP LIKE THIS AND HOW IT AFFECTS ME.

AND YOU...SON OF VULCAN... WHAT HAVE YOU TO DO WITH ALL THIS?

PLENTY, BLACK ADAM. YOU AND I HAVE BOTH BEEN GRANTED THE PRIVILEGE AND RESPONSIBILITY OF GODHOOD.

AND WE BOTH STAND TO LOSE BOTH THOSE WORLDS UNLESS YOU HELP THE WIZARD THERE.

I DIDN'T COMPREHEND IT AT FIRST EITHER. I JUST KNEW THAT SOMETHING WAS DRIVING THE ROMAN GODS INTO A FRENZY. VULCAN AND I TRIED TO STOP THEM BUT FAILED.

WHEN I AWOKE I FOUND MYSELF FLOATING IN THE RIVER STYX.

"IT'S AMAZING HOW STIMULATING A DIP IN THE STYX CAN BE. SUDDENLY, MY MY MISSION BECAME CLEAR. I FOUND THE GREEK GODDESS **HARMONIA** WHO FILLED ME IN ON CIRCE, AND OF THE FATES AND THE TRUST THEY PLACED IN HER. WE FORMED A UNION. MY FIRST DUTY WAS TO GET CAPTAIN MARVEL AND WONDER WOMAN OFF NEW OLYMPUS.

"UNFORTUNATELY, A RANDOM TELEPATHIC CONTACT WITH A BEING FROM LOBO'S PLANET DIVERTED CAPTAIN MARVEL'S PATH AFTER AN ERRANT BOLT FROM MERCURY DISLODGED HIM FROM CHAOS."

YES, AND FROM WHAT WE CAN INFER, THEIR MEETING WAS NOT EXACTLY AMICABLE.

WHEN THE ROMAN OLYMPIANS TOOK OVER BILLY BATSON TO MAKE HIM FIGHT AGAINST THE GREEK, THE CONFLICT BEGAN NEUTRALIZING THE SPELL WHICH CREATED HIM.

AND DRAGGING MARVEL BACK ACROSS THE GALAXY PRETTY MUCH DEPLETED WHAT WAS LEFT OF HIS POWER. SET BROUGHT YOU BACK TO SERVE HIM, BUT WHEN YOU RETURNED TO EARTH YOUR POWERS STARTED BEING NULLIFIED.

SO, WHAT DO WE DO NOW?

OUR ONE HOPE IS TO RECREATE THE ORIGINAL *SHAZAM* SPELL.

"TO DO THAT HARMONIA AND I HAD TO GET THE SIX POWERS-THAT-BE AWAY FROM CIRCE'S INFLUENCE. WE ALSO HAD TO FIND SAFE BODIES FOR THE SPIRITS. THAT'S WHEN I THOUGHT OF THE METAL MEN.

"IN TURN WE CAPTURED EACH SPIRIT AND PLACED THEM INTO THE ROBOTS. I HANDLED ZEUS AND HERCULES ON OLYMPUS WHILE HARMONIA TOOK CARE OF ATLAS, ACHILLES AND MERCURY."

HARMONIA HAD LEFT ME TO HANDLE SOLOMON, WHO ALONE AMONG THE SIX, HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF MY SPELL'S ORIGINAL PURPOSE.

I FEARED HIS REACTION TO SUCH AN ALLIANCE. BUT MY WISE OLD FRIEND UNDERSTOOD, AND THIS TIME, I HAVE HIS BLESSING.

NOW, ALL WE NEED IS FOR HARMONIA TO BRING THE PRINCESS DIANA--

I AM AFRAID, SHAZAM, THAT WONDER WOMAN WILL NOT BE ARRIVING ANY-TIME SOON.

WHO THE HELL--

BY THE GODS-- YOU!?

I'M GLAD YOU RECOGNIZE ME, BLACK ADAM. IT SAVES TIME ON INTRODUCTIONS.

I'VE COME TO TELL YOU THAT WONDER WOMAN IS DEAD AND HALCIBER FILIUS MUST GET BACK TO NEW OLYMPUS.

CIRCE'S ACTIONS MAY HAVE MORE SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES THAN EVEN SHE IMAGINED.

BUT THAT'S WHY WE'RE HERE. THE FATES TOLD HARMONIA--

THE FATES ONLY TOLD HER PART OF THE STORY. WE LEARNED THE REST, THANKS TO PARIAH.

"REVIVING CAPTAIN MARVEL IS BUT ONE PIECE OF THE PUZZLE. THERE IS STILL ONE MORE WHO MUST BE FREED FROM NEW OLYMPUS."

BUT, HOW CAN I DO IT NOW? I DIDN'T HAVE TO DEAL WITH CIRCE THEN. SHE MUST KNOW ABOUT ME. SHE'S ALREADY GOTTEN CONTROL OF THE OTHER ROMAN GODS.

HOW THE HELL--?

WAIT A SECOND...

...IT'S CRAZY... BUT IT JUST MIGHT WORK...

"AAAH! AQUAMAN HAS FINALLY LOCATED THE JUNCTION TWIXT THE SEAS OF OLYMPUS AND EARTH. IT SHAN'T BE LONG BEFORE THE EARTH'S WATERS ARE CONSUMED BY OLYMPUS.

I GUESS HE LEARNED THE HARD WAY THAT YOU TRUST NO ONE ON HECATE'S OLYMPUS!

SO, HECATE--I FEEL YOUR JOY COURSING THROUGH MY VEINS, AS YOUR GAME OF VENGEANCE PLAYS ON.

THESE SO-CALLED CHAMPIONS FROM EARTH ONLY SERVE TO FAN THE FIRES OF THE GODS' DEMENTIA.

AND I DO APPRECIATE THAT, PHOBOS. JUST AS YOU APPRECIATE WHAT WOULD HAPPEN SHOULD YOU FAIL--AS YOUR SISTER ERIS DID.

CIRCE... I BEG YOU... YOU'RE DRAINING MY LIFE FROM ME... I HAVE NO MORE POWER... TO GIVE...

...THE GIRL... TROIA... USE HER...

...SHE HAS... GREAT POWER... I CAN FEEL IT... I BESEECH YOU... HAVE MERCY...

"SORRY, ERIS. UNTIL I KNOW EXACTLY WHY AND HOW TROIA WAS BROUGHT HERE, I'M NOT TAKING ANY CHANCES."

BUT... I WAS THE ONE... WHO SAVED YOU...

THANKS TO ME, QUEEN CIRCE. D-DON'T FORGET. IT IS PHOBOS WHO MANIPULATES THEIR PANIC.

PLEASE... DON'T FORGET...

FOR WHICH I SHALL ALWAYS BE GRATEFUL, ERIS. BUT THAT WAS SO LONG AGO.

BESIDES, YOU'VE ONLY YOURSELF TO BLAME. IF YOU HAD BROUGHT ME THE APPLE WITH THE WAR GODS' POWER AS I HAD COMMANDED, I WOULDN'T HAVE TO DRAIN IT FROM YOU NOW.

YES, QUEEN CIRCE. ERIS FAILED. BUT PHOBOS SHALL NEVER FAIL YOU.

"IT WAS I WHO KILLED HARMONIA FOR YOU. WHEN IT COMES TO LOYALTY, NONE IS MORE ARDENT IN HIS DEVOTION THAN PHOBOS."

"AS I SAID, PHOBOS, I APPRECIATE IT. HECATE APPRECIATES IT.

"NOW, SHUT THE HELL UP!"

FAREWELL, FAIR HARMONIA. THOUGH I HAVE DONE NOTHING TO DESERVE YOU, NO FATHER COULD HAVE ASKED FOR A BETTER DAUGHTER.

GO NOW, MY CHILD. DEPART NOW TO THAT REGION BEYOND ALL OLYMPIAN KNOWLEDGE. WHERE GO GODS WHEN GODS DIE.

I SWEAR: YOUR FATHER LORD ARES SHALL BE WORTHY OF YOUR SACRIFICE.

CURSED GREEK! YOU SHOULD HAVE FINISHED ME WHEN YOU HAD THE CHANCE.

LET'S END THIS! RIGHT HERE! RIGHT NOW!

NO, LORD MARS. ALL THIS HAS BEEN FOR NAUGHT. I LOST THE DAUGHTER WHO LOVED ME MOST.

I WILL NOT ALLOW THE FOLLY TO CONTINUE. THIS BATTLE IS ENDED.

WHAT!! AND YOU CALL YOURSELF A *WAR GOD*!? YOU WILL FIGHT, DAMN YOU-- OR YOU WILL *DIE*!

AS WILL *YOU*, ROMAN. OF THAT YOU CAN BE CERTAIN. THERE WILL BE NO VICTOR IN THIS BATTLE-- NO SPOILS OF WAR. NO OLYMPUS TO WIN.

GAZE INTO MY EYES. SEE THE TRUTH AS I HAVE SEEN IT.

BEHOLD THE FINAL BEQUEST OF A GODDESS WHO SACRIFICED EVERYTHING TO DELIVER IT.

GAZE DEEPLY, LORD MARS--AND BELIEVE.

CITIZENS OF APOKOLIPS!! PREPARE FOR THE FINAL CONFLAGRATION!

INTO THE FRAY, MY HUNGER DOGS! LET ALL NEW GENESIS CRUMBLE UNDER THE HEELS OF DARKSEID'S FORCES TRIUMPHANT!!

RANT ALL YOU WANT, DARKSEID, BUT ON THIS DAY YOUR TYRANNICAL RULE SHALL END ONCE AND FOR ALL! THIS ONE'S TO THE DEATH, FATHER!

SO BE IT, ORION! IF WE ARE TO CROSS DEATH'S DOOR THIS DAY, YOU WILL LEAD THE WAY WITH MY BOOT PRINT ON YOUR BUTTOCKS!!

LORD DARKSEID! EVEN AS THE WAR ON APOKOLIPS ESCALATES THE POWER EMANATING FROM THE EARTH GROWS MORE INTENSE!

YOU MUST CONVINCE THE NEW GENESIS HORDES THAT YOU'RE NOT RESPONSIBLE.

SILENCE, DESAAD!

"IT DOESN'T MATTER WHO OR WHAT RESPONSIBLE NOW!!"

"THESE WRETCHES DARED STRIKE WITHOUT PROVOCATION. FOR THAT THEY WILL PAY THE ULTIMATE PENALTY!"

TONIGHT THE FIREPITS OF APOKOLIPS WILL BURN WITH THEIR BLOOD!

NO.!!!

THIS MADNESS MUST STOP! DO YOU HEAR! LEST YOU DOOM NOT ONLY OUR WORLD BUT ALL OF CREATION!

DARKSEID, ORION, YOU MUST HEED THESE WORDS. WE ARE FIGHTING A WAR NOT OF OUR CHOOSING. IT IS ALL A TRICK, PLAYED BY ONE CAPABLE OF MANIPULATING THE GODS!

IT'S TRUE, LORD DARKSEID, ALL THAT WILL BE CONTINUE AND YOU WILL HASTEN OUR JOURNEY INTO OBLIVION.

HIGHFATHER?

YOU'RE TALKING MADNESS. WHY SHOULD I BELIEVE YOU?

THEN BELIEVE ME, LORD OF APOKOLIPS. I AM THE *BLACK RACER*, DEATH'S CHOSEN MESSENGER, AND DEATH NEVER LIES.

THE SPECTRE OF DEATH IS UPON ALL YOUR FACES, BUT THERE WILL BE NO CROSSING OVER TO THE HIGHER PLANE. FOR NOTHING WILL FOLLOW OBLIVION.

A MAD SORCERESS HAS SOUGHT TO FORM A NEW WORLD FOR HERSELF--

--BUT SHE WILL UNWITTINGLY BRING NOTHING LESS THAN THE TOTAL CANCELLATION OF ALL CREATION.

WHAT SORT OF FOOL DO YOU TAKE ME FOR! WHAT YOU ARE ASSERTING IS LUDICROUS! HOW CAN AN ENTIRE CREATION BE NULLIFIED?

AND WHAT DO THE SCHEMES OF A TERRAN WITCH HAVE TO DO WITH US?

BECAUSE WE ARE GODS, DARKSEID. ALTHOUGH WE LIVE BEYOND THE EARTH, WE CANNOT ESCAPE OUR ANCESTRY.

FROM THE ASHES OF THE OLD AROSE THE NEW GODS. AS DID THE GODS OF ROME, OF EGYPT, OF SO MANY OTHERS.

AS THEY WERE INCITED TO WAR, SO WERE WE. THE WITCH FEEDS ON SUCH POWER.

THEN, ALL THIS WILL END IF WE SIMPLY STOP FIGHTING?

NOT COMPLETELY. BUT, PLANS ARE AFOOT THAT MAY END CIRCE'S THREAT ONCE AND FOR ALL.

WITH YOUR HELP.

BELIEVE ME, ORION, THE THOUGHT OF CREATION BEING CANCELED DOESN'T SCARE ME HALF AS MUCH--

--AS WHAT WILL REPLACE IT.

WHAT SAY YOU, LORD DARKSEID?

"...THE END OF CREATION... AN END TO MY CURSE AT LAST ...NO MORE DISASTERS TO TORMENT ME... NO MORE ME...

PARIAH! REMEMBER, TRY WARNING CIRCE OF OUR PLANS AND I'LL--

YOU'LL WHAT, LADY QUARK? KILL ME? I ONLY WISH YOU COULD.

YES, WELL-- HUH? THAT SOUND. A ROARING ENGINE.

OH NO. IT CAN'T BE.

"LOBO! HEADING TOWARD NEW OLYMPUS WITH WHAT LOOKS LIKE ONE OF THE ROMAN GODS.

"I NEVER THOUGHT I'D SAY THIS, BUT, LOBO, AM I GLAD TO SEE YOU.

HARBINGER, THE WHINER'S ALL YOURS. NOTHING MORE I CAN DO WITH HIM ANYWAY.

I HAVE TO GET TO NEW OLYMPUS AND MAKE SURE THAT LOBO STICKS TO JUST KILLING THE BAD GUYS!

"BLAST! DR. FATE WAS RIGHT AFTER ALL. CIRCE'S DECIDED TO START HER ASSAULT ON EARTH VIA GOTHAM CITY.

"THERE'S A WHOLE ARMY OF THOSE HARPIES AND BESTIAMORPHS COMING STRAIGHT AT US.

BLACK LIGHTNING... KATANA...LOOKER... LET'S DO IT.

EEEEAARRRHH!

WOW. SOMEHOW, I NEVER IMAGINED THERE'D BE SO MANY OF THEM.

NO ONE'S KEEPING SCORE, LOOKER. JUST KEEP BLASTING AWAY AT WILL. EVERYBODY.

KATANA DOESN'T HAVE TO BE TOLD, BLACK LIGHTNING. MY SWORD IS DRAWN. THERE WILL BE MUCH BLOOD DRAWN THIS NIGHT!

UH-OH. BAD IDEA.

BATMAN!

KUHUNK!

WAIT. SOMETHING'S NOT RIGHT HERE. IT'S AS IF A FOG IS LIFTING. WHA--

WHAT? WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, ERIS?

... TROIA... THE GIRL... THE PRINCESS...

SORRY, CIRCE. THIS LINE'S BEING DISCONNECTED--

--PERMANENTLY!!

ERIS!!

I'VE WAITED FOR THIS, WITCH. YOU TURNED MY GODS AGAINST ME, BUT I STILL HAVE THEIR POWERS.

AND IN THE NAME OF OLYMPUS, I'M GOING TO MAKE YOU PAY FOR THE SACRILEGE YOU'VE PERPETRATED HERE.

HOW PATHETICALLY NAIVE.

YOU SHOULD HAVE STAYED IN THE STYX, HALCIBER FILIUS. YOU WOULD HAVE DIED MORE PEACEFULLY.

AS IT IS NOW, YOU'RE EXACTLY THE MEDICINE DR. CIRCE ORDERED.

AARRRRGGGHHH!!

...NO... MY SON... NOT YOU... NOT...

HEPHAESTUS! WHAT'S HAPPENING?

HEPHAESTUS! NO!!

‹NO!!›

‹EPIONE! IT'S TIME!›

THE FIRE IS DYING. THE GODS OF THE FORGE HAVE DONE ALL THEY CAN. NOW IT'S UP TO YOU!

WHERE ARE YOU GOING? LYLA--YOU'RE LEAVING ME HERE ALONE?

THE VEIL IS LIFTING, MOSSA. SOON CIRCE WILL SEE ALL THAT WE'RE DOING.

GOODBYE, MOSSA. WHATEVER THE OUTCOME-- I THANK YOU FOR YOUR COURAGE.

LOBO! WHAT THE DEVIL'S WRONG WITH YOU?

RIP OUT SOME GUTS! BREAK SOME SKULLS. THIS IS YOUR KIND OF PARTY!

LOBO!!

NEW OLYMPUS MUST BE TOO MUCH FOR HIM. LOBO'S BLANKED OUT! LORD KNOWS WHAT'LL HAPPEN IF HE ERUPTS!

COUNT VERTIGO, YOU HAVE TO STOP HIM!

LIKE HELL, SUPERMAN!

MAYBE THIS WORLD DOESN'T AFFECT ME AS MUCH AS EVERYONE ELSE, BUT I WON'T TACKLE WITH THAT MANIAC!

ALL I NEEDED WAS A LITTLE MORE GODLY POWER TO COMPLETE MY DESTINY, SON OF VULCAN.

WHILE SIPPING FROM THE KETTLE OF BREWING BATTLE HAS BEEN SUSTAINING, THERE IS NOTHING LIKE GOING DIRECTLY TO THE MEAT.

EVEN BEFORE YOU KILLED HER, ERIS WAS MERELY A PICKING OFF OF THE BONE.

BUT *YOU*, HALCIBER FILIUS, THE BENEFICIARY OF ALL THAT OLYMPIAN POWER...

--YOU WILL BE A *FEAST*.

--EH--?

"WHAT NOW?"

YOUR POWER... AN EMPTIED WELL...

...DAMN YOU...

...I'VE BEEN TRICKED!!

FEEEAAAAAA...

OH MY GOD! HE'S GOT DONNA!

THAT CRAZY MONSTER'S GOT DONNA!

TAKE IT EASY, KID. I THINK THERE'S MORE TO ALL THIS THAN MEETS THE EYE.

I'LL GET HER. MY POWERS ARE UNPREDICTABLE HERE. BUT THAT MAY WORK TO OUR ADVANTAGE.

FOOLS! DID YOU THINK CIRCE COULD BE ADDLED FOR LONG!?

YOU SHOULD HAVE PRESSED YOUR ADVANTAGE WHILE YOU HAD THE CHANCE!

LOBO! LET GO OF HER!! TROIA ISN'T THE ENEMY! EVEN A CRETIN LIKE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO--

LOBO!!

GONE! IT WAS ALL A PLOY TO SAVE THE GIRL. THEN ERIS WAS RIGHT ABOUT HER...

WELL, THIS WILL ONLY MAKE THINGS WORSE--

QUEEN CIRCE... THE CLOUDS OVER OLYMPUS ARE GROWING DARK... OH NO...

CITIZENS OF OLYMPUS! HEED THE DECLARATION OF THE GODS OF WAR!

IN THE NAME OF MARS OF ROME, KINGU OF BABYLON, SIVA OF THE VEDAS, SET OF EGYPT, LOKI OF THE NORTH, HUITZILOPOCHTLI OF THE AZTECS, SHANGO OF AFRICA, DARKSEID OF APOKOLIPS, I BID THEE STOP!

IN THE NAMES OF ALL THE DARK LORDS GATHERED AND MORE, I, LORD ARES DECLARE THE TIME OF WAR AT AN END!

WITH EVERY BLOW, WE HASTEN THE DAY OF ALL OUR DESTRUCTION. YOU HAVE ALL FOUGHT WELL, BUT NOW IT IS DONE.

MARS,,, YOU ARE A PARTY TO THIS ? YOU LIVE FOR WAR ! YOUR BRAIN MUST BE MUDDLED.

WHAT OF OLYMPUS ? THESE GREEK MISCREANTS DESTROYED OUR HOME.

NOT THEY, JUPITER. NOT REALLY.

TRUE, WHEN THE GREEKS DESTROYED THEIR MOUNT OLYMPUS, OURS WAS CONSUMED AS WELL. BUT THAT CHAIN REACTION WAS CAUSED NOT BY THE OLYMPIANS, BUT BY CIRCE.

--AND ONE AMBITIOUS GODDESS NAMED ERIS-- WHO HAS ALREADY PAID FOR HER CRIMES.

CIRCE KNEW WE REQUIRED SOME CAUSE FOR WHICH TO FIGHT--SO SHE GAVE US NEW OLYMPUS.

I, LIKE MY BROTHERS HERE GATHERED, AM A GOD OF WAR. DO YOU BELIEVE WE WOULD CALL FOR *PEACE*, IF THERE WERE ANY POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVE ?

I BELIEVE YOU, LORD MARS.

IN THE NAME OF MY FALLEN HUSBAND, ZEUS, I, HERA, DO CALL UPON ALL OLYMPUS TO DROP THEIR ARMS !

LORD HERACLES, HOW LOOKS CIRCE ?

UNSTIRRED, IPHTHIME. SHE STANDS AS DEFIANT AS EVER.

I DON'T LIKE THIS. I FEAR ARES' DECLARATION MAY HAVE COME TOO LATE.

NOOOOO.

LORD HADES-- WHAT'S WRONG ?

A TEARING INTO MY SOUL... BY MY BRETHREN ,,, I *RECOGNIZE* THIS FEELING.

WHATEVER IT IS,,, I FEEL IT TOO,,, WHAT IS IT ?

HECATE, LORD PLUTO,,, MY SPURNED LOVER IS METING OUT HER PERSONAL REVENGE ON ME AT LAST.

"THROUGH CIRCE SHE IS CEASING CONTROL OF THE LAST BASTION OF OLYMPUS--THE ONE KINGDOM SHE CONSIDERS HERS BY RIGHT--"

"--THE UNDERWORLD."

DEADMAN-- WHAT'S HAPPENING ? I HEAR VOICES AGAIN. TORTURED, AGONIZED VOICES.

YEAH... I HEAR THEM TOO,,, AND GOD... I FEEL THEM...

"PAIN.

"SO MUCH PAIN."

YOW! Um -- GUYS... I--MEAN MR. NEPTUNE, MR. POSEIDON... IS THAT *SUPPOSED* TO BE HAPPENING?

BY JOVE! WHAT MANNER OF CREATURES ARE THOSE?

I AM AS PUZZLED AS YOU, LORD NEPTUNE. I'VE NEVER SEEN THEIR LIKE BEFORE.

BUT... I THINK... I HAVE...

... IT'S IMPOSSIBLE...

"AQUAGIRL?!"

SUCH FORMALITY, ARTHUR. KISS YOUR OLD FRIEND TULA.

I'D RATHER YOU WERE GARTH, BUT...

KORD, I DECIDED THIS BLUE BEETLE HAD RETIRED LONG ENOUGH. LET'S TRADE PLACES.

DR. GARRETT! BUT YOU'RE *DEAD!*

YEAH -- BUT I GOT BETTER!

GUY GARDNER -- WE'VE COME FOR YOUR RING.

YOU ARE A DISGRACE TO THE GREEN LANTERN CORPS!

ABIN SUR?! KATMA TUI?! YOU *CAN'T* BE ALIVE!

ALL RIGHT, DENIZENS OF HADES. LET'S SHOW THESE FOOLS THAT WAR ONLY ENDS WHEN I SAY IT ENDS!

KILL THEM!

"LET THE LEGIONS OF HADES GATHER MORE TO THEIR RANKS!

"LET THE GATES OF THE UNDERWORLD FALL AGAINST THE WEIGHT OF INCOMING DEAD!"

"NO! MORE DEMONS ARE ESCAPING BY THE SECOND. HOW LONG CAN THE DEMONS HOLD THEM OFF?"

HAWKWOMAN, WE HAVE TO HELP THEM. THE HELL WITH THE MASTER PLAN.

HOLD IT, POWER GIRL. MAYBE WE CAN HELP THEM WITHOUT JEOPARDIZING DR. FATE'S SCHEME.

PLEASE... LET MY POWERS BE ENOUGH.

"YES! TORA, YOU DID IT!"

"DID I? IN THIS TROPICAL SETTING, MY ICE SHIELD ISN'T GOING TO HOLD FOR LONG."

IT WON'T HAVE TO, ICE. ONE WAY OR ANOTHER THIS IS ALL GOING TO END SOON.

WHO'S THAT WITH YOU?

SHE CALLS HERSELF *AZURE*. THE AZTEC GODS HAVE ALLOWED HER TO ACT AS THEIR FAMILIAR. ANY NEWS ON QUEEN HIPPOLYTE?

"SHE'S BEING LED TO THE PYRE NOW. I STILL DON'T KNOW HOW YOU FIGURED THIS ALL OUT, DR. FATE."

"I'VE ALWAYS RELIED ON THE KINDNESS OF STRANGERS, SHAYERA."

"PHANTOM STRANGERS."

NOW, IF HARMONIA'S GAMBIT IS AS THE STRANGER SAID, OUR SUCCESS DEPENDS ON TIMING.

AS I CAN EXIST IN TWO PLACES AT ONCE, IT'S UP TO ME TO ENSURE THAT.

"<FROM THE CLAY OF PARADISE FORM YOU, HIPPOLYTE, AN IMAGE WITH CARE.>

"<OPEN YOURSELF ONCE AGAIN TO YOUR FAITH IN THE GODS-->

"<--UNTO THE WOMB OF GAEA.>

"<AND WITH THEIR GUIDANCE LET YOUR SPIRIT CRY OUT-->

"WITH THE WISDOM OF SOLOMON, THE STRENGTH OF HERCULES, THE STAMINA OF ATLAS, THE POWER OF ZEUS, THE INVULNERABILITY OF ACHILLES AND THE SPEED OF MERCURY SHALL YOU BE FORTIFIED. AND WITH THE PURITY OF YOUR OWN SOUL, BILLY BATSON, SHALL YOU EMBODY THEM."

<AND THUS SHALL A LEGEND BE REBORN.>

AND THUS SHALL A LEGEND BE REBORN.

"<ALL THE BLESSINGS AND GIFTS OF THE GODS SHALL BE HERS->

"<--AND BLESSED, TOO, WITH GREAT GAEA'S MOST PRECIOUS GIFT-->

"<--LIFE!>"

BUT THERE IS NO TIME TO WORRY ABOUT THAT NOW, TETH-ADAM.

JUST A LITTLE LONGER.

"JUST LONG ENOUGH FOR BILLY BATSON TO FIND HIS VOICE. TO CALL OUT TO HIS SPIRITS UNITED.

"LOOK! HIS LIPS PART! YES! JUST ONE WORD, BILLY. SAY IT! JUST ONE WORD!"

BY HECATE, THAT FOG OVER MY MIND-- IT'S NEARLY DISPERSED NOW --

NO... IT'S IMPOSSIBLE--

BY THE INFERNAL GODS --

NO!

OH NO! CIRCE'S BROKEN THROUGH OUR MENTAL UMBRELLA!

IT WAS BOUND TO HAPPEN! ONCE DONNA WAS TAKEN OFF OLYMPUS, WE LOST OUR CHANNEL TO THE WITCH.

BUT WE HAVE TO KEEP TRYING. WE NEED EVERY SECOND WE CAN GET.

ZATANNA, WHY HAVE YOU STOPPED CHANNELING? YOU HEARD MADAME XANADU. WE MUST--

NO... YOU'RE DEAD... LEAVE ME ALONE!

"...YOU'RE *DEAD!*"

IS THAT ANY WAY TO ADDRESS YOUR *FATHER*? THERE'S ONLY ONE FITTING PUNISHMENT FOR SUCH DIS-RESPECT.

YB S'ARATAZ DNAH LLAHS ANNATAZ EID!

NOT TODAY, ZATARA.

ZATANNA, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? THAT WASN'T REALLY YOUR FATHER. IT COULDN'T BE.

SNAP OUT OF IT. WE HAVE TO REESTABLISH THE PSYCHIC LINK.

DON'T BOTHER, XANADU. IT MAKES NO DIFFERENCE. WE'RE AT THE POINT OF NO RETURN.

WHERE'S DONNA? WHAT'S HAPPENED TO MY WIFE?

"TROIA HAS NOW TAKEN HER PLACE ON THE COSMIC CHESS-BOARD, TERRY LONG. THE *END GAME* IS AT HAND."

FOOLS! DID YOU THINK YOUR SUB-TERFUGE COULD FOOL HECATE FOR LONG?!

I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU THINK TO NEGATE MY "*DEVOLVING SPELL*" OR WHETHER YOU WILL SUCCEED OR FAIL--

--BUT YOU WILL NOT LIVE TO FIND OUT!

CIRCE'S BOLT... IT'S HEADING STRAIGHT TOWARD THEMYSCIRA.

GOT TO STOP IT. THE WHOLE UNIVERSE IS RIDING ON THIS.

C'MON, CLARK, YOU CAN'T BLOW IT NOW.

FASTER, MAN... FASTER...

AAARRGH

GREAT SCOTT!

GREAT GAEA!

IT'S GOING TO HIT THE QUEEN. NO... BY THE GODS...WE'RE SO CLOSE...

FOR THE GLORY OF GAEA -- NO!!

THAT FIRE BALL FALLING FROM OLYMPUS...

SHAZAM!

AAAA AAIII!!! EEEE E!!!

QUEEN CIRCE!!

BY THE GODS -- NOT AGAIN!

HOW MANY TIMES CAN THOSE OLYMPIAN FOOLS THRUST ME INTO CRONUS' TOMB BEFORE THEY REALIZE THE *FUTILITY* OF IT ALL?

WHAT'S THIS -- THREE TIMES IN AS MANY YEARS?

WELL, YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY, CIRCE. THIRD TIME'S THE CHARM!

YOU! SO THIS IS WHERE YOU DISAPPEARED TO. WELL, LITTLE GIRL, YOU'RE GOING TO REGRET EVER BRINGING ME HERE. I'VE KILLED A *GOD!* WHAT CHANCE DO YOU THINK *YOU'LL* HAVE?

ALONE? NOT MUCH. BUT DONNA TROY IS FAR FROM BEING ALONE.

MAN, IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU GOT HERE. I WAS BEGINNING TO GET VERY NERVOUS.

THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE! I WATCHED YOU REVERT TO CLAY! I DESTROYED YOU! THIS IS ANOTHER TRICK!

YOU'RE *DEAD*, DAMN YOU! *DEAD! DEAD!*

WELL, CAPTAIN MARVEL. I WAGER YOU NEVER THOUGHT I WOULD--

WAIT -- WHAT'S HAPPEN-ING TO ME? *WIZARD!* WHAT'S GOING ON?

OUR WORK HERE IS DONE, TETH-ADAM. NOW THAT YOU'VE REGAINED YOUR POWERS, I CANNOT ALLOW YOU TO REMAIN.

NO! I HELPED YOU, YOU OLD WRETCH! YOU CAN'T DO THIS TO ME

YOU CAN'T!

HOLY MOLEY.

YOU CAAAAAAAAAN'T*

WHAT THE HECK'S GOING ON HERE? LAST THING I REMEMBER IS THE LOBO GUY--

WHAT'S HAPPENED IN THE PAST IS NOT IMPORTANT NOW, CAPTAIN MARVEL...

WHAT MATTERS NOW IS THAT A GREAT WRONG HAS BEEN RIGHTED.

WE GODS AND HEROES ARE UNITED ONCE MORE, AND THAT UNITY IS EXEMPLI-FIED IN *YOU*.

IF CIRCE IS NOT STOPPED, THEN ALL THIS SHALL HAVE BEEN FOR NOTHING.

YOU WILL REPRESENT US IN THE GREAT BONDING TO COME.

HEY, WAIT! I DON'T UNDERSTAND? WHAT *GREAT BONDING?*

IT WILL BE EXPLAINED TO YOU ON THEMYSCIRA. YOU REMEMBER ME, DON'T YOU, CAPTAIN? YOU KNOW YOU CAN TRUST ME.

WELL, OKAY.

BUT WHAT ABOUT *THEM?*

"THE METAL MEN SHALL BE RETURNED TO DOC MAGNUS. I JUST HOPE THAT THIS ENTERPRISE DIDN'T DO THEM ANY HARM."

"COME, CAPTAIN MARVEL--"

"--WE HAVEN'T A SECOND TO LOSE."

"WELCOME TO THEMYSCIRA, CAPTAIN MARVEL."

DR. FATE? BOY, HAVE YOU CHANGED! CAN YOU TELL ME WHAT'S GOING ON?

WE'RE TRYING TO SAVE THE UNIVERSE, C.M.

AGAIN?

IT'S DIFFERENT THIS TIME, CAPTAIN. THIS WAR CAN'T BE WON BY FORCE. WE HAVE TO RELY ON THE POWER OF *ECUMENISM* -- ALL PANTHEONS UNITED FOR A COMMON CAUSE!

YES, I'VE BEEN CALLED TO REPRESENT *MAYA*, THE HINDU EARTH MOTHER. I BROUGHT DR. NGAI AS AN EMISSARY FOR THE AFRICAN *ORISHAS*.

THE BABYLONIAN GODS WHO HELPED FOUND ATLANTIS CHOSE *POWER GIRL*

WHILE I STAND PROUDLY TO SERVE *HUITZILOPOCHTLI* ANY WAY I CAN.

I'M HERE FOR *ALL* MY FELLOW NEW GODS -- FROM NEW GENESIS *AND* APOKOLIPS.

I'VE BEEN ELECTED TO REPRESENT THE *THANAGARIAN* GODS.

UNFORTUNATELY, WE LOST THE ROMAN SON OF VULCAN. BUT HE DID PROVIDE A PROXY.

HIM?

"YEAH. NOT EVEN CIRCE EXPECTED THAT FILIUS WOULD CONCEAL HIS POWER WITHIN *LOBO*, DOMINATING THE BRUTE'S WILL IN THE PROCESS."

THE ELEMENTS ARE IN PLACE. WE'VE DONE ALL *WE* COULD. HOW ARE YOU, MOSSA?

THE AMAZON ORACLE...

SHE, TOO, SACRIFICED EVERYTHING. IF WE SUCCEED SHE WILL, AT LEAST, REST IN DEATH.

EITHER WAY, HER SUFFERING *IS OVER.*

HOW I ENVY HER.

FOOLS! HAVEN'T YOU REALIZED YET THAT EVEN IN THIS LIMBO, HECATE'S POWER IS SUPREME?

I DESTROYED HERMES HERE -- A *GOD!* AN *OLYMPIAN!* WHAT CHANCE DO YOU THINK YOU HAVE AGAINST POWER LIKE *THAT?!*

DIANA! PLEASE, LET ME HELP YOU! YOU DON'T STAND A CHANCE ALONE!

NO! KEEP YOUR SHIELD UP! WE HAVE TO SEE THIS THROUGH AS PLANNED!

"OTHERWISE, ALL THIS WILL HAVE BEEN FOR *NOTHING!*"

DIANA! IT'S STARTING! I CAN *FEEL* IT!

DEAR GOD, I FEEL *THEM!*

DON'T LOSE CONTROL, DONNA! KEEP THE PORTAL OPEN!

"IT'S TOO LATE! I CAN FEEL EVERY-THING BREAKING APART!"

"*NO! HOLD ON!* THERE'S NO TURNING BACK NOW!

"*HOLD ON!*"

BY THE GODS! THIS WASN'T SUPPOSED TO HAPPEN!

MUST FLEE! FATHER WILL *KILL* ME!

THE ONLY WAY WE CAN GET TO THEM IS THROUGH *YOU!*

OUT OF MY WAY! OUT OF MY WAY!

LYLA -- THE IMAGES ARE RETURNING! MY HOMEWORLD! MY PLANET!

Oh GOD, LET THIS BE THE FINAL TIME --

LYLA...

"THE END IS BEGINNING."

DONNA! IT'S TIME! GET READY TO DROP YOUR SHIELD ON MY COMMAND!

SO! THIS IS THE SORCERESS WHOM HECATE ENTRUSTED WITH HER DESTINY! WHAT A MOCKERY! YOU CAN'T EVEN KILL *ONE AMAZON!*

PERHAPS THE GODDESS CHOSE WRONG, AFTER ALL! PERHAPS IT IS I WHO TRULY DESERVES HER BIRTHRIGHT.

THEN YOU SHALL HAVE IT, ARROGANT FOOL! I'LL RAM IT DOWN YOUR ACCURSED THROAT!

DIE, AMAZON!

NOT *THIS* TIME, CIRCE!

BY THE WILL OF HARMONIA, WHOSE TALISMAN HELPED GIVE LIFE TO PANDORA-- FROM WHOSE CLAY I SPRUNG-- *NOT THIS TIME!*

"MY BOLT! YOU DEFLECTED IT TOWARD TROIA! SHE'S ABSORBING IT!!"

"NOT *SHE*, CIRCE! POWERS *BEYOND* THE PORTAL WHICH IS DONNA'S TUNIC!"

DAMN IT, NO! HECATE'S POWER IS SUPREME!

"SUPREME" IS A *RELATIVE* TERM AMONG GODS, CIRCE.

YOU MEASURE HECATE'S SUPREMACY BY HER CONTEMPORARIES, ALL ONE GENERATION REMOVED FROM THOSE WHO SIRED THEM--

--THEMSELVES A GENERATION REMOVED FROM WHAT SUPREME POWER SIRED THEM, AND SO ON, AD INFINITUM, TO THE ULTIMATE SUPREME -- *CREATION.*

HECATE GREW TO REALIZE THIS, AND IT MADDENED HER.

FROM THE AFTERMATH OF THE TITAN-OLYMPIAN WAR SPRUNG FORTH MANY PAN-THEONS, MANY NEW GODS--

--WHO NOW UNITE AGAINST YOU, CALLING FOR AID TO THE SUPREME THAT BEGAT THIS SUPREME.

"FOR THEY ALL NOW KNOW WHAT HECATE REFUSED TO ACCEPT--

"THAT NEGATING CREATION ALSO MEANT NEGATING *HERSELF.*

"YOU HAVE BEEN PART OF ONE COSMIC CASE OF SELF-DECEPTION, CIRCE."

NO! YOU'RE LYING! I WON'T BELIEVE IT!

I'LL DESTROY YOU ALL! HECATE SHALL NOT FAIL!!

Ah-HAH! I KNEW THAT VIGILANTE CREEP COULDN'T STAND UP TO MY BARRAGE FOREVER.

DON'T BREAK YOUR ARM PATTING YOURSELF ON THE BACK, DEATH-STROKE.

THAT ZOMBIE WAS STARTING TO CRUMBLE ON HIS OWN.

"IN FACT, LOOK! IT'S HAPPENING ALL OVER OLYMPUS!"

HADES-- THE DEAD-- THEY'RE--

YES, APHRODITE. THEY RETURN TO THE SHADOWS. HECATE... SHE'S LOSING...

...THEN... VULCAN... MY ROMAN OTHER... WAS RIGHT... APHRODITE... I BESEECH YOU... SUSTAIN ME... JUST A LITTLE LONGER...

...SO THAT I MAY BE-HOLD THE TITANS... ONE LAST TIME...

WHAT? HEPHAESTUS-- I DON'T UNDER-STAND.

...YOU WILL...

NO! WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME?!

"YOU'RE *DYING*, CIRCE. HECATE IS THROUGH WITH YOU.

"HAVEN'T YOU YET FIGURED WHY *THIS* ARENA WAS CHOSEN FOR OUR FINAL BATTLEFIELD?"

"IT IS UPON *CRONUS* YOU STAND. HE WHO SIRED LORD ZEUS. HE WHOSE GODLY ESSENCE IS THAT ONE STEP CLOSER TO THE ULTIMATE SUPREME."

HE HAS LINKED WITH HIS BRETHREN TO CALL THEIR ERRANT GRANDCHILD HECATE BACK.

FOOL! DO YOU NOT REMEMBER THE *PROPHECY*?!

UPON THE DEATH OF WITCH AND THE BIRTH OF WITCH, HECATE, BY NAME AND CHOICE, SHALL REPOSSESS HER SOUL!

LET THE PROPHECY BE FULFILLED! DIANA OF THEMYSCIRA, NAMESAKE OF HECATE -- YOUR SOUL IS MINE!

NO, HECATE! BY THE FIRE OF HESTIA'S LASSO, LET DECEPTION BURN AWAY ONCE AND FOR ALL!

THIS MADNESS SHALL NOW END!

NOOOOOOOO!!!

LORD CRONUS -- TAKE HER! HECATE'S YOURS!

HOLY COW! DID YOU EVER SEE ANYTHING LIKE THAT IN YOUR LIFE?

BY MY CROWN... IT'S ALL SO GLORIOUS...

BUT WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

IT MEANS, LORD JUPITER, THAT THIS WAR OF THE GODS IS ENDED -- AND A NEW AGE OF GREATNESS HAS DAWNED UPON US.

ZOUNDS! CAN IT BE? HAVE MY PRAYERS BEEN ANSWERED SO QUICKLY?

"ZEUS!"

AYE, HERA, YOUR HUSBAND HAS RETURNED -- FAR WISER NOW THAN WHEN WE LAST BEHELD EACH OTHER.

BUT I MUST SPEAK QUICKLY -- THERE IS A GREAT DESTINY THAT AWAITS US, IF WE BE SWIFT ENOUGH TO EMBRACE IT.

THE DAY OF GODLY INTERVENTION IS PASSED. I SEE THAT CLEARLY NOW

IT WAS NOT WE GODS WHO BESTED CIRCE. IT WAS OUR BLESSED CHILDREN WHO TRULY DESTROYED HER.

WE HAVE TAUGHT THEM WELL. WHATEVER HAPPENS, OUR LIGHT SHALL ALWAYS BE WITH THEM.

AS FOR US-- A WHOLE COSMOS AWAITS. THERE IS STILL MUCH GOOD THE GODS CAN DO OUT THERE.

BEHOLD! CRONUS BECKONS. EMBRACING HECATE'S POWER, HE INVITES US TO CROSS THE PORTAL, BEYOND WHICH OUR ANCESTORS AWAIT.

THE TITANS HAVE FOUNDED A NEW SOCIETY -- NEW WORLDS IN NEED OF GUIDANCE -- WORLDS IN NEED OF *US*.

OUR TRESPASSES SHALL BE FORGIVEN--PARENT AND CHILD SHALL IN PEACE BE REUNITED AT LAST.

ALL WE NEED DO IS ENTER.

ZEUS -- HOW I HAVE LONGED TO SEE THAT FIRE IN YOUR EYES AGAIN. I WILL FOLLOW YOU--GLADLY.

SURELY, LORD ZEUS, THERE IS STILL MUCH GODS CAN DO HERE?

I KNEW YOU WOULD FEEL THAT WAY, LORD JUPITER.

OLYMPUS IS THINE. I TRUST YOU AND YOUR BRETHREN SHALL LOVE HER AS MUCH AS WE.

FARE THEE WELL,... MY BROTHER!

LORD HERACLES, WE MUST LEAVE BEFORE OLYMPUS RETURNS TO ITS MYSTIC PLANE.

THEN GO, EUBOEA. AND GODSPEED.

THE EARTH TO WHICH YOU RETURN -- WITH ALL THESE *SUPERHEROES* -- WHAT NEED HAS SUCH A PLACE FOR HERACLES?

I YEARN FOR A WORLD WHERE I CAN BE A CHAMPION AGAIN.

TELL HIPPOLYTE I SHALL REMEMBER HER FONDLY -- AND HOPE SHE WILL DO THE SAME.

YOU ARE NOT COMING WITH US? BUT, QUEEN HIPPOLYTE--

ATTENTION, TROOPS! THE PARTY'S OVER!

"LET'S GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE!"

I KNOW HOW MAGIC CAN AFFECT YOU. WHAT YOU DID WAS AN ACT OF BRAVERY.

YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT BRAVERY? TALK ABOUT THE AMAZONS.

THERE THEY LIE EXPOSED TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD, VULNERABLE AND ALONE FOR THE FIRST TIME IN OVER THREE THOUSAND YEARS, THEIR GODS NO LONGER AROUND TO PROTECT THEM.

NOT ALONE, SUPERMAN-- YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS HAVE PROVEN THAT THE AMAZONS NEED NEVER BE ALONE AGAIN.

"DONNA?"

TERRY! WHERE AM I? WHAT HAPPENED?

YOU'RE IN OUR BEDROOM. YOU'VE BEEN ASLEEP FOR ALMOST THREE DAYS.

THREE --? DEAR GOD -- DIANA -- WHAT HAPPENED TO DIANA?

OLYMPUS IS GONE!

YEAH, EVERY-THING GOT BACK TO NORMAL RIGHT AFTER THE GODS DISAPPEARED.

THE BESTIAMORPHS, THE HARPIES ALL VANISHED IN THE TWINKLING OF AN EYE.

"DON'T WORRY ABOUT PRINCESS DIANA, THOUGH. LAST I HEARD, SHE WAS BACK SAFE AND SOUND ON THEMYSCIRA."

"THEY'RE TAKING MENALIPPE FROM THE TEMPLE TO THE PYRE. I GUESS THEY'LL BE STARTING THE CEREMONY ANY MINUTE NOW.

"WHY DON'T YOU GO OVER THERE AND ATTEND?"

I DON'T KNOW. I CAN'T HELP FEELING PARTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR HER DEATH. IF ONLY I HAD DEFLECTED CIRCE'S BOLT.

YOU LESSENED ITS POTENCY SIGNIFI-CANTLY, SUPERMAN. OTHERWISE IT WOULD HAVE DESTROYED THE ENTIRE ISLAND.

"I GUESS ONLY TIME WILL TELL WHETHER HARBINGER WAS RIGHT OR WRONG."

TIME CHANGES WITH EVERY BEAT OF ITS PASSING. THE FUTURE LIVES AND DIES CONTINUOUSLY. ENDLESSLY.

"FIRESTORM SEEMS CONTENT BACK IN HIS OWN UNIVERSE, JUST AS RON RAYMOND AND LORRAINE REILLY ARE GLAD TO BE TOGETHER IN THEIRS."

THREADS ONCE WOVEN, NOW UNRAVELED, REACHING OUT IN SEPARATE PATHS. FOR ONE LIFETIME, ANYWAY.

"ALREADY, I CAN HEAR DARKSEID PLOTTING HIS NEXT CONSPIRACY. SO MUCH FOR THE TRUCE."

FAILURE-- SUCCESS. IN MATTERS OF PROVIDENCE SUCH TERMS ARE MEANINGLESS.

"STRIPPING LOBO'S MEMORY OF THE LAST FEW DAYS BEFORE SHOOTING HIM HOME WAS A SAVVY MOVE. ALL'S NORMAL THERE, TOO.

"YES, I KNOW. 'NORMAL' IS RELATIVE HERE.

"LORD PLUTO HAS TAKEN TO HIS NEW POST AS CARETAKER OF THE ELYSIAN FIELDS QUITE GRANDLY.

"I'M SURE HALCIBER FILIUS-- AND JOHN MANN -- SHALL BE QUITE HAPPY THERE. AT LEAST HE HAS BEEN RE-WARDED FOR HIS SACRIFICE.

"BUT WHAT OF HARMONIA? WOULD NOT ARES' MOURNING BE ASSUAGED IF HE KNEW HIS DAUGHTER'S SPIRIT WERE AT PEACE?

"SHE TOOK WHAT LITTLE SHE LEARNED AND ACTED UPON IT UN-FLINCHINGLY.

PHANTOM STRANGER -- YOU'VE SHARED OUR FAVOR LONG ENOUGH TO KNOW THAT FATE IS NEVER FAIR.

FATE IS INEVITABLE. FATE'S SURVIVAL PARAMOUNT. WHAT WAS DONE HAD TO BE DONE.

"AS DID THE WIZARD SHAZAM, NOW RE-TURNED TO HIS REST AS THE TOPPLING DESERT ERASES ALL EVIDENCE OF HIM --

"--AND THE AMAZONS OF BANA-MIGHDALL.

"AND POOR MOSSA, THE PARIAH --

"--WHO GAVE UP HIS ONE CHANCE TO END HIS TORTURES SO THAT MORE FUTURES CAN LIVE AND DIE.

"IT ISN'T FAIR."

SUCH IS FATE.

END

Superman Post-Crisis Chronology
Volume 046 War of the Gods

"Hellfire's Web", first appeared in War of the Gods issue #1, released July, 1991
George Pérez (writer), George Pérez (penciller), Cynthia Martin (inker)

"War of the Gods", first appeared in Superman: The Man of Steel issue #3, released July 17, 1991
Louise Jones Simonson (writer), Jon Bogdanove (penciller), Dennis Janke (inker)

"The Holy Wars", first appeared in War of the Gods issue #2, released August, 1991
George Pérez (writer), George Pérez (penciller), Cynthia Martin (inker), Russell Braun (inker), Romeo Tanghal (inker), George Pérez (inker)

"To Avenge an Amazon", first appeared in Wonder Woman issue #61, released November, 1991
George Pérez (writer), Jill Thompson (penciller), Rick Bryant (inker)

"In The Beginning...There Was The End", first appeared in War of the Gods issue #4, released October, 1991
George Pérez (writer), George Pérez (penciller), Alan Kupperberg (inker), Dick Giordano (inker), Frank McLaughlin (inker), George Pérez (inker), Gordon Purcell (inker), Pablo Marcos (inker), Phil Jimenez (inker)

COLLECTORS' EDITION--FREE MINI-POSTERS INSIDE!

WAR OF THE GODS™

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

WAR OF THE GODS
1
SEP 91
US $1.75
CAN $2.25
SEP 91

LANDMARK 1ST ISSUE!

DC'S MIGHTIEST HEROES FACE THEIR GREATEST CRISIS!

GEORGE PEREZ • CYNTHIA MARTIN

WAR OF THE GODS 3
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
DC
3
SEP 91
US $1.00
CAN $1.25
UK 50p
SUPERMAN
THE MAN OF STEEL
1991
27
BOGDANOVE JANKE
BY
L. SIMONSON,
BOGDANOVE
& JANKE
PERRY & ALICE WHITE ... AND MA & PA KENT ... PLAGUED BY A 500-YEAR-OLD CURSE!

PÉREZ · BRAUN · MARTIN · TANGHAL

WAR OF THE GODS

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

WAR OF THE GODS
2
US $1.75
CAN $2.25
UK 80p
13

0 70989 31246 3

GEORGE PÉREZ

COLLECTORS' EDITION--FREE MINI-POSTERS INSIDE!

WAR OF THE GODS
2
OCT 91
US $1.75
CAN $2.25
UK 80p
13

WAR OF THE GODS™

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

GEORGE PÉREZ • RUSSELL BRAUN • CYNTHIA MARTIN • ROMEO TANGHAL

WAR OF THE GODS
24

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

WONDER WOMAN

61
JAN 92

TO AVENGE AN AMAZON

by GEORGE PÉREZ, JILL THOMPSON & RICK BRYANT

JF 1991
JWG

TM

WAR OF THE GODS

WAR OF THE GODS
4
US $1.75
CAN $2.25
UK £1
25

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

TM

COLLECTORS' EDITION--FREE MINI-POSTERS INSIDE!

WAR OF THE GODS

WAR OF THE GODS
4
DEC 91
US $1.75
CAN $2.25
UK £1

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

IN THE BEGINNING... THERE WAS THE END!